00054502

THE

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BOMBAY

TOWN HALL, BOMBAY-1.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Digitized with financial assistance from

NSDL

Technology, Trust & Reach

on 16 November, 2018

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

A DICTIONARY

OF

SLANG, JARGON & CANT

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

A DICTIONARY

OF

SLANG, JARGON & CANT

EMBRACING

ENGLISH, AMERICAN, AND ANGLO-INDIAN SLANG
PIDGIN ENGLISH, GYPSIES' JARGON
AND OTHER IRREGULAR
PHRASEOLOGY

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

ALBERT BARRÈRE

Officier de l'instruction publique; Professor R.M.A. Woolwich
Author of "Argot and Slang," &c. &c.

AND

CHARLES G. LELAND, M.A., Hon. F.R.S.L.

Author of "The Breitmann Ballads," "The English Gypsies and their Language," &c.

54502

VOL. I. A—K.

Axa-g-2

LONDON

GEORGE BELL & SONS

1897

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

LIBR OF BOM BRA OF ROYAL ASI

R 427.093
Bar/Dic
54502

ef
27.7093

First issued privately in 1889
Revised Edition 1897

00054502

Printed by BALLANTYNE, HANSON & Co
At the Ballantyne Press

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

PREFACE

THE following work was originally published in the shape of two expensive volumes printed only for subscribers. It has been thought desirable to issue it *with some alterations and corrections* for the use of the public in general.

To define its scope is somewhat difficult. Other dictionaries of slang have been published, one of the best known of which is that issued by Mr. John Camden Hotten about thirty years ago. But as every year makes an increase in the volume of that conventional and unauthorised social dialect commonly known as slang, it is obvious that there is ample room for a newer work on the subject. And apart from that, this book pretends to something more than its predecessor. In it will be found much of the special slang of public schools, professions, and trades, and a great deal of that peculiar jargon which originates in unique circumstances or pertains to strange races, such as the Anglo-Indian vernacular, the Pidgin-English of China and the Straits, and the jargon of gypsies, all of which, in varying degrees, are based upon languages utterly unfamiliar to Western ears.

What one might call the classical slang of thieves is technically termed "cant." It has the appearance of possessing more quaint and original features than the more modern lingo, the sole reason for which is perhaps that it proceeds from dialects but little known, as for instance Romany, or from Celtic and Anglo-Saxon words no longer used as language-words and known only to a few scholars.

Cant possesses but few original terms coined in a direct manner

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

by those who employ the vocabulary, for it needs greater imaginative powers than these light-fingered professors are generally credited with to invent terms that shall remain and form part of a language. An illustration of this may be found in the French argot—taken in the narrower sense of malefactors' language and leaving out altogether the Parisian slang—which, in spite of all the efforts of those interested in the matter, has remained very nearly what it was in the seventeenth century.

Taking as a starting-point that slang and cant are of an essentially conventional and consequently metaphoric and figurative nature, it may safely be asserted that the origin of slang and cant terms must certainly be sought for in those old dialect words which bear a resemblance in form; not however in words which bear an approximately identical meaning, but rather in such as allow of the supposed offsprings having a figurative connection of sense.

Of late years many judicious and intelligent writers have recognised that there is a vast number of words which, while current, are still on probation, like emigrants in quarantine, awaiting the time when they are to be admitted to the regular haven of the Standard Dictionary. But this increase has been so enormous and so rapid that no standard lexicographer could do it justice. It is generally admitted that to keep pace with modern French journalism or novels, a "Dictionnaire d'Argot" is absolutely indispensable, and this is now quite as much the case with English. And when we consider that it is not possible to take up a copy of any of the leading London society journals without finding very often in one single article a dozen slang phrases which have never yet been given in any dictionary whatever, it will be admitted that a time has certainly come to publish a dictionary upon new lines in which every effort shall be made to define such expressions without regard to what the department is called to which they belong.

To show what a need there is of such a work, one only has to reflect that a vast number of more recent American slang phrases, chiefly of modern Western manufacture, have never been collected

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

and published. And the same may be said of those which have cropped up and developed themselves in the English-speaking colonies, in the bush of Australia, or South Africa. The real amount of Romany, Dutch, Celtic, and Yiddish, in the various slangs, has never yet been decided by writers who had a thorough knowledge of these languages, and Mr. Hotten, while declaring that to the gypsies we are in great measure indebted for the cant language, and that it was the corner-stone and a great part of the edifice of English slang, was still so utterly ignorant of it as to have recourse to a vocabulary of Roumanian gypsy to explain the very few words of English Romany in his work, the great majority of which were in some way erroneous. The present is the first Slang Dictionary ever written which has had the benefit of contributors who thoroughly understood Celtic dialects, Dutch, German, and French slang, and who were thus enabled to establish their relations with English cant, and one of these gentlemen is equally at home in Pidgin-English, Gypsy, and Shelta or tinker's slang, which by-the-bye is one of the three principal slangs of the kingdom, and is here made known for the first time in a work of this kind; this being also the first Slang Dictionary to which the rich and racy slang of the fifth continent—the mighty Australian commonwealth of the future—has been contributed by one long resident in the country and familiar both with its life and its literature. Information has been gathered at its very source from all classes of society, and in every department contributors have been employed who were perfectly at home in their respective specialities.

We might add that the majority of the contributors selected were men not only intimate with their subject, but also of proved ability in literature.

A. B.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

CONTRIBUTORS

Prof. A. Barrère

E. Brooksmith

Egerton Castle

J. C. Coleman

Sir Patrick Colquhoun

Major A. Griffiths

John Hollingshead

Rev. J. W. Horsley

C. Pelham Huggins

Rev. Blomfield Jackson

C. T. Jacobi

C. G. Leland

Hamon Le Strange

Charles Mackay, LL.D.

Prof. W. Paris

T. Preston

J. A. P. Price, M.D.

Alfred German Reed

Douglas Sladen

The Earl of Suffolk

M. Tylecote

And Others

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

A BRIEF

HISTORY OF ENGLISH SLANG.

By CHARLES G. LELAND.

IT does not seem to have occurred to any writer that the chief reason why the early history of purely English slang is obscure, is because that previous to a certain determinate date, there was really so little of it, that it hardly existed at all. There can be no biography of a child worth writing so long as it can babble only a few words. It is probable that of these few early slang words, none have been lost. During the Saxon Early English and Middle English periods, there were provincial dialects, familiar forms of speech, and vulgarisms, but whether a distinct canting tongue was current in England, remains as yet to be established. That the tinkers or metal-workers, who roamed all over Great Britain, were a peculiar people,* with a peculiar Celtic language called Shelta, may be true, but canting as yet did not exist.

No discoveries have as yet been made which cast much light on the process by which English canting, or the language of the loose and dangerous classes, was first formed. This much we know, that in England, to a beginning of antiquated and provincial or perverted words, a few additions were made of Welsh, Irish, or Gaelic, with here and there a contribution from the Continent. It seems to be evident that this rill of impure English, most defiled, was a very

* John Bunyan, it may be remembered, once asked his father whether the tinkers were not "a peculiar people." Regarded from any point of view, this indicates that he suspected they were not English. Bunyan, according to recent researches, could not have been a gypsy, but as a tinker he must have known *Shelta*, or the old tinker's language, and therefore naturally suspected that he belonged to some kind of separate race.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

slender one. But as C. J. Ribton Turner suggests, it was the arrival of the gypsies in England about 1505, speaking by themselves a perfect language, which stimulated the English nomads to greatly improve their own rude and scanty jargon. According to Samuel Rowlande, whose work, "The Runnagate's Race," appeared in 1610, one Cock Lorrell, a great rascal, but evidently a man of talents, became, in 1501, the acknowledged head of all the strollers in England. This person formed his followers into a regular guild or order, according to the spirit of the time in which he lived, and observing that the gypsies, under their leader, Giles Hathor, were a powerful and rapidly increasing body, he proposed to them a general council and union of interests and language.

"After a time that these vp-start Lossels had got vnto a head, the two chief Commaunders of both these regiments met at the Diuels-arse-a-peak, there to parle and intreete of matters that might tend to the establishing of this their new found gouernment; and first of all they think it fit to deuise a certaine kinde of Language, to the end that their cousenings, knaueries, and villainies might not be so easily perceiued and knowne in places where they come."

Here Samuel Rowlande, speaking ignorantly, says that this tongue was made up out of Latin, English, and Dutch, with a few words borrowed from Spanish and French. To this day it is common enough for "travellers," or gypsies, to tell the ignorant that the language which they speak is Latin, French, or Dutch, &c. From the language itself, as given by Robert Copland (1535), and Harman ("Caveat for Cursitors") in 1567, it appears that the gypsies actually contributed a certain amount of Romany, but that with their natural dislike to teach it, they made this contribution as small as possible—though it is larger than Mr. Turner supposes. He has, however, with very approximate accuracy, shown the various Celtic origins of the terms not reducible to English or Saxon. Of Latin he finds only eight words, of which two are very doubtful, while two others, *gerry* (i.e. *jerry*), excrement, and *peck*, meat, are plainly from the Romany *jirr* (*rectum vel excrementum*), and *pekker*, roast, *i.e.*, roast meat. It is too far afield to seek these common gypsy words in the Latin *gerræ*, trifles, and *pecus*, cattle.

This was the beginning made of the canting or thieves' tongue, and it must be admitted that the first meeting of this Philological Oriental Congress for the purpose of forming a language was probably not deficient in a certain picturesque element, and an able artist might find a worse subject than this grand council of the

gypsies and vagabonds in their cavern among the hills. It is to be observed that Harman, a magistrate who was not only very familiar with every type of criminals, but who was the first who ever published a canting vocabulary, declares that *it was only within thirty years previous to* 1567 *that the dangerous classes had begun to use a familiar jargon at all.* Mr. Turner says that this statement is little better than a guess at the truth; but Harman, who seems to have been an earnest and honest writer, explicitly declares that his statement was the result of inquiry among many, or to use his own words: "As far as I can learne or understand by the examination of *a number* of them, their language—which they terme peddelars Frenche or canting—began but within these xxx yeeres or lyttle above."

What confirms this statement, if it does not actually prove it, is the fact that Harman, though he evidently laboured hard to make a full vocabulary and had many facilities for collecting words, gives us in all only about 160, while those who came after him in the field are accused of only repeating him. But the truth probably is, that Harman was quite right; canting was really young in his time, and small in proportion to its age. Its growth may be very clearly traced in dramatic, comic, or criminal literature from 1535, as shown by Robert Copland in his "Hye Way to the Spyttel House," down to the present day.

In old canting the most striking element is the large proportion of Celtic words, drawn from all parts of Great Britain. Turner has observed that the Act 5 Edward III. c. 14, affords evidence that the Welsh *gwestwr*, "unbidden guest," or vagabond, was a public nuisance in England prior to 1331. In fact the Welsh and Irish stroller, or professional rogue and beggar, was a common type represented and ridiculed in broadsides or plays till within a century.* Edicts and Acts of Parliament, and the most vigorous punishment and reshipment of "ye vacabones" to their homes, were utterly ineffectual to keep them out of England. In the English "kennick" or canting of the lowest classes of the present day, the greater proportion of

* A majority of those travellers and tramps in England, who are simply beggars and thieves, and who do not seek for work, are still Irish. Full information on this subject may be found in the "History of Vagrants and Vagrancy," by C. J. Ribton Turner; and it may be said with truth that all the criminals of the towns and cities put together do not injure the country at large so much as these creatures, who carry vice into every hamlet, and into the remotest corners of the kingdom.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Celtic terms are apparently not taken *directly* from Gaelic, Erse, Welsh, or Manx, but from a singular and mysterious language called Shelta (Celtic ?), or *Minklas Thari* (tinkers' talk), which is spoken by a very large proportion of all provincial tinkers (who claim for it great antiquity), as well as by many other vagabonds, especially by all the Irish who are on the roads. The very existence of this dialect was completely unknown until 1867, its vocabulary and specimens of the language being first published in "The Gypsies" (Boston, 1880). It has been ingeniously conjectured by a reviewer that as all the Celtic tinkers of Great Britain formed, until the railroad era, or about 1845, an extremely close corporation, always intermarrying, and as they are all firmly persuaded that their tinkerdom and tongue are extremely ancient, they may possibly be descendants of the early bronze-workers, who also perambulated the country in bands, buying up broken implements and selling new ones. This is at least certain, that the tinkers as a body were very clannish, had a strongly-marked character, a well-developed language of their own, and that while they were extremely intimate with the gypsies, often taking wives from among them, and being sometimes half-bloods, they still always remained *tinklers* and spoke Shelta among themselves. The nature of this alliance is very singular. In Scotland the *tinkler* is popularly identified with the gypsy, but even half-blood tinklers, such as the Macdonalds,* who speak Romany, do not call themselves gypsies, but tinklers. The caste deserves this brief mention since it has apparently been the chief source through which Celtic words have come into English canting—an assertion which is not the mere conjecture of a philologist, but the opinion of more than one very intelligent and well-informed vagabond. It is very remarkable that though Shelta is more or less extensively spoken even in London, and though it has evidently had a leading influence in contributing the Celtic element to canting, thus far only one writer has ever published a line relative to it. Hotten or his collaborateurs seem, in common with Turner and all other writers on vagabonds, never to have heard of its existence. It will probably be recognised by future analysts of canting that in all cases where a corrupted Celtic word is found in it, it will be necessary to ascertain if it did not owe its change to having passed through the medium of Shelta.

* It is needless to say that gypsies have assumed family names, such as Stanley, Lee, &c., and among others that of Macdonald.

NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA

Though the gypsy contribution to canting was not extensive, it was much larger than many extensive writers on vagabonds have supposed, and it is worth noting that a number of our most characteristic slang words, such as row, shindy, tool (in driving), mash (*i.e.*, to fascinate), pal, chivvy, and especially the arch-term slang itself, are all Romany. It is not remarkable that Cock Lorrell recognised in the gypsies "a race with a back-bone," and one from whom something could be learned. Their blood "had rolled through scoundrels ever since the flood," and from the beginning they had spoken not a mere slang, but a really beautiful and perfect language resembling Hindustani or Ūrdū, but which was much older. The constituents of this tongue are Hindi and Persian—the former greatly predominating—with an admixture of other Indo-Aryan dialects. It was first suggested in "English Gypsies and their Language" that the true origin of the Rom or gypsy was to be found among the Dom, a very low caste in India, which sprung from the Domar, a mountain tribe of shepherd-robbers; and recent researches by Mr. Grierson among the Bihari Dom have gone far to confirm the conjecture. Its author also discovered that there exists to-day in India a wandering tribe known as *Trablūs*, who call themselves Rom, and who are in all respects identical with the Syrian and European gypsies. About the tenth century, owing to political convulsions, there were in India a great number of outcasts of different kinds. Among these the *Jâts*, a fierce and warlike tribe, crushed by Mahometan power, seemed to have coalesced with the Doms or Rom, the semi-Persian Luri or Nuri (originally Indian), and others, and to have migrated westward. Miklosich, in a very learned work, has, by analysing the language as it now exists, pointed out the Greek, Slavonian, and other words which they picked up *en route*. It was about the beginning of the fifteenth century that a band of about 300 of these wanderers first appeared in Germany, whence they in a few years spread themselves over Europe, so that within a decade many thousands of them penetrated to every corner of the Continent. They were evidently led by men of great ability. They represented themselves as pilgrims, who, because they had become renegades from Christianity, had been ordered by the King of Hungary as a penance to wander for fifty years as pilgrims. They had previously by telling the same story, but adapted to the faith of Mahomet, got a foothold in Egypt. They thus obtained official license to make themselves at home in every country, except

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INDIA

in England, yet went there all the same. Andrew Borde, the eccentric physician, who lived during the reign of Henry VIII., was the first person who made (in 1542) a vocabulary of their language, which he did under the impression that it was "Egyptian" or the current tongue of Egypt. Bonaventura Vulcanius, in 1597, in his curious book "De Literis et Lingua Getarum," also gave specimens of Romany as "Nubian." The first European writer who discovered that Romany was really of Hindu origin, was J. C. Rudiger, and this he announced in a book entitled "Neuester Zuwachs der Sprachkunde," Halle 1782. He was followed by Grellmann, whose work was much more copious. It was translated into English at the beginning of this century, and passed through three editions. George Borrow, in his novels of "Lavengro" and "The Romany Rye," published about 1845, and in "The Gypsies in Spain," first told the public much about this subject, and his influence was very great both in England and on the Continent in awakening an interest in it. Among more recent writers, Dr. Bath C. Smart, Francis Groome, and the writer, have been the principal collectors of Anglo-Romany lore. Borrow, who knew the gypsies so well, was far from being perfect in their language, as he declared positively that there are only 1200 words in the English dialect; more recent researches have more than doubled the number.

The next element of importance which enters into English slang of the middle type, subsequent to old cant, is Dutch. Of this there are two separate sources. In England, from the time of William of Orange until that of George II., there was a constant influx of *Nederduytsch*, while in America, the State of New York, while subject to Holland, contributed an equally large proportion of quaint expressions, and of these in time there was great interchange between the old country and the new. To detect many of these, one must go much deeper into Dutch than the standard dictionaries, and descend to Teirlinck's and other collections of thieves' slang, or dig into such old works as those of Sewel, in which the vulgar and antiquated words "to be avoided" are indicated by signs. As English and Dutch belong to the same stock, it naturally results that numbers of our provincial or obsolete terms are the same or nearly the same in both; in such cases we have generally placed them together. An examination of the work cannot fail to convince any one that our indebtedness to this source is much greater than has ever been supposed. But as these derivations are often as doubtful as they are numerous and plausible, the editor, with the example of Bellenden

Kerr * before him, would beg the reader to observe that in this work no ancient or foreign words are advanced as *positively* establishing the etymology of any slang expression, but are simply adduced as indicating *possible* relations. The day has gone by when it sufficed to show something like a resemblance in sound and meaning between a dozen Choctaw and as many Hebrew words, to prove positively that the Red Indians are Jews. But "wild guess-work" is still current even in very learned works, and though "in a pioneer way" it is useful in affording hints to true philologists, it should never claim to be more than mere conjecture.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth many Italian words found their way not only into English literature but also into slang, and additions have occasionally been made since then from the same source. Thus *fogle*, a handkerchief, is beyond question the Italian *foglia*, a leaf, also slang for a silk handkerchief (Florentine *follo*), and not the German *vogel*, a bird, as Hotten declares. The number of these derivations is much larger than has ever been supposed, and much of the mine is still unworked.

Old canting retained its character until the reign of Charles II., when a great deal of general slang began to be current, which was not connected in any way with the jargon of the dangerous classes. *Bite*, *macaroni*, and *quiz* were slang, but not cant; they originated in or were first made popular by fashionable people. Following the Spanish Quevedo, and other writers of the *vida tunantesca*, or "tag-rag-and-bobtail school," as models, not only the dramatists, but authors like Sir Roger L'Estrange and Defoe used directly, or put into the mouths of their heroes, a familiar, free and easy, offhand style, which was anything but conventional, or as many may think, correct. Pedantic writers also continued for more than a century to deliberately manufacture in great quantity, from Latin, words of the kind used by the unfortunate Limousin student who was beaten by Gargantua. An "about-town" dialect was developed by "bloods" and wits, in which Dutch, Italian, and French began to appear more frequently than of yore. Gypsy and old canting terms rose now and then from the depths, or dregs, and remained on the surface. It was during this which may be called the middle slang epoch, that those conventional or colloquial terms began to be

* The author of an ingenious and eccentric work in two volumes, in which he endeavoured to prove that most English proverbs, sayings, and nursery rhymes are all in old Dutch, and have an esoteric meaning, being really attacks on the Church.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF INDIA

current, which, without being *vulgar* or directly associated with crime, were, owing to their novelty, flippancy, or "fastness," still kept in limbo, or under probation. It has been truly enough said that the old slang was altogether coarse or vulgar, and that there was subsequently a great increase in the number of low and obscene terms classed with it, a growth which went on vigorously until the end of the reign of George IV. But while Butler, Swift, Tom Brown, Grose, and scores of minor artists dealt out more or less "dirt or deviltry," it should be remembered that the accretion of new phrases, which were in no way "immoral," was really much greater.

About this time, during the latter part of the seventeenth century and the first half of the eighteenth, was the beginning of the vast array of words now in familiar use, which are unjustly called slang, because that term forces upon them associations with vulgarity and crime which they no more merit than that leaves or flowers should be identified with the dirt from which they grow. This quarantine language is simply the natural and inevitable result of a rapid increase in inventions, needs, new sources of humour, and, in fact, of all social causes. New names are in as great demand as they were of yore, when heathen were converted and baptized in batches. Then they were often all called John or James by the thousand "for short," but now we are more discriminating and analytical. But it is to be observed that hitherto no writer whatever has ever dealt with these quarantined words or probationers in the spirit which they merit, or pointed out the fact that they fulfil a legitimate function in language, or attempted to collect them in a book.

It would appear to have been about a century ago that a few Yiddish, or Hebrew-German, words began to creep into English slang. When we consider that fully one-half of the Rothwalsch or real slang of Germany is of this kind of Hebrew, and also the great numbers of persons who speak it, it is remarkable that we really have so little of it. As an instance of the guess-work philology which we have alluded to, it may be pointed out that the common Jewish word *gonnof* (Hebrew *ganef*), a thief, is according to Hotten very old, in English, because it is found in a song of the time of Edward VI. as *gnoffe!*

> "The country *gnoffes*, Hob, Dick, and Will,
> With clubs and clouted shoon,
> Shall fill up Dussyn Dale
> With slaughtered bodies soon."

But *gnoffe*, according to Wright, does not mean a thief at all, but

a churl (also an old miser). Its true root is probably in the Anglo-Saxon *cneov*, *cnuf*, or *cnûvan* (also *cneav*, knave), to bend, yield to, *cneovjan* (*genuflectere*). If country boors or peasants be therefore the meaning of *gnoffes*, it would be in Yiddish *keferim*. This remarkable dialect is now spoken by some thousands of persons in London, and there are one if not two newspapers published in it. The editor has not only the German-Jewish *Chrestomatie* of Max Grünbaum, and many books written in Yiddish, but also eleven vocabularies of it, one of which, a MS. of about 3000 words, is by far the most extensive ever compiled. It seems not unlikely that the word *poker*, as a game of cards, is derived from Yiddish, since in it *pochger* (from *pochgen*) means a man who in play conceals the state of his winnings or losses, or hides his hand. This is so eminently characteristic of *poker* that the resemblance seems to be something more than merely accidental. There have always been Jewish card-players enough in the United States to have given the word. The most remarkable and desperate game of poker within the writer's knowledge (in which not only a fortune but a life were risked) occurred on board a Mississippi steamer, its hero being a Jew.

Of late years many Anglo-Indian and pidgin-English, or Anglo-Chinese words, have become familiar to the public. For the former our chief authority has been the "Glossary of Anglo-Indian Colloquial Words and Phrases, and of Kindred Terms," by Col. Henry Yule and the late Arthur Coke Burnell (870 pp. 8vo, London, John Murray, 1886), a copious work, as remarkable for extensive erudition as for sagacity, common-sense, and genial humour. For pidgin-English we have used the only work extant on the subject, viz., "Pidgin-English Ballads, with a Vocabulary," by C. G. Leland (London, Trübner & Co., 1887). This remarkable dialect, owing to the ease with which it is acquired, is now spreading so rapidly all over the East that Sir Richard Burton thinks that it may at no distant date become the *lingua-franca* of the whole world.

Anything like a distinct history of the development of English slang has hitherto been impossible, owing to the ignorance of most of those who have put themselves forward as its analysts and lexicographers. Samuel Rowlande told the world that gypsy and canting had resolved themselves into one and the same thing, and following his lead, one authority after the other, such as the author of the "Life of Bampfylde Moore Carew," gave us as "Gypsy" vocabularies, works in which hardly a trace of Romany was to be found. In vain did Grellmann, Hoyland, and George Borrow explain that

these wanderers spoke an Oriental language—even Mr. Edward Gosse, in his "Memoir of Samuel Rowlande," says that "'Martin Markall' is entirely in prose, except some queer *gypsy* songs"—the "gypsy songs" in question having less resemblance to gypsy than English has to Spanish or French. The editor has before him a work written and published within a few years, called "The New York Slang Dictionary," in which the writer tells us that "*bilk* is a word in the gypsy language, from which most English slang is derived" (*bilk* not being Romany at all), and assures the reader that his book (which is simply a re-hash of Grose, with the addition of some purely modern Americanisms) will enable him to make himself understood in the slums of St. Petersburg, Paris, or in any country in the world! In common with far greater critics and scholars, he believes that gypsy is a mixture of all European tongues and corrupt English, when, in fact, it does not contain a single French word.* Hotten had a far better knowledge of the constituent elements of slang, unfortunately he had not even an average "smattering" of the languages which *must* be understood, and that into their very provincialisms, argots, and corruptions, in order to solve the origin of all the really difficult problems in it. He knew that the poet, Thomas Moore, made a great mistake in believing that canting was gypsy, but he knew nothing whatever of Romany, and asserts that it is mingled up and confused with canting, and is ignorant enough to declare that "had the gypsy tongue been analysed and committed to writing three centuries ago, there is every probability that many scores of words now in common use could be at once traced to its source." This was the result of an erroneous belief that Mr. Borrow knew everything of English Romany that could be known, while the fact is that by comparison with Continental dialects, and with the aid of what Mr. Borrow did *not* know, it is tolerably certain that the English gypsy of three centuries ago is by no means the lost language which he assumed it to be.

The last and not least important element in English slang consists of Americanisms. The original basis or beginning of these is to be found in Yankeeisms or words and phrases peculiar at first to New England. They consisted chiefly of old English provincialisms,

* George Borrow thinks that the word *būldika*, a shop, is from the French *boutique*. It is much more probably the Italian *bottega*, though it still more resembles the Spanish *bodega*.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

with an important addition of Dutch which came over the border from New York and New Jersey, and a few Canadian-French expressions. For these the dictionary of Mr. Bartlett is an invaluable source of reference. We cannot praise too highly the industry and sagacity manifested in that work. His weak point lies in the fact that having been guided by dictionaries such as that of Wright, he too frequently assumes that a word which is marked as provincial is not generally known in England. Hence he gives as peculiarly and solely American words which have no special claim to be regarded as such. In addition to these mostly Saxon-born terms, there is a much greater number of quaint eccentric expressions of Western and Southern growth, which increase at such a rate that one might easily compile from a very few newspapers an annual volume of new ones. Yet again, English slang phrases are continually being received and shifted into new meanings and forms, as caprice or need may dictate. It may surprise the reader to learn that the works of Artemus Ward, Bret Harte, Mark Twain, and other standard humourists, are by no means the great mines of *slang* which they are popularly supposed to be. It is in the newspapers, especially in their reports, theatrical or local, and not infrequently in the "editorials," that the new racy and startling words occur, as they are improvised and picked up. This dictionary contains a large collection of true and recent American colloquial or slang phrases, and though the works of the great American humourists have been carefully searched for this purpose, it will be found that the majority of terms given are from other sources. The reader who is familiar with Bartlett and other writers on Americanisms, can judge for himself to what extent—or to what a slight extent—we are "indebted" to them. It is true that they are frequently cited, but in the great majority of instances it has been for the purpose of correction, emendation, or illustration of their definitions.

The history of Slang is that of the transition of languages into new forms, and from this point of view it may be assumed that such a work as the present will be of as great interest to the thorough student of history as the folk-lore to which it properly belongs, or anything else which indicates the phases of culture.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES INDIA

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

A DICTIONARY

OF

SLANG, JARGON, AND CANT.

A

A. 1 (popular), a form used to indicate a high degree of excellence.

The magistrates all praise my zeal,
And put me down *A* 1,
And burglars when they hear my step
Instantly cut and run.
They sometimes drop things in their flight,
Those things of course I take;
To leave them there to tempt the poor
Would be a great mistake.
—*Music Hall Song.*

The expression is also used adverbially.

My friends remark, "Oh, what a lark
To see the money fly!"
They say we're two young sillies, and
We don't know what to buy.
But you just leave my Fred alone,
He's such a knowing sort,
He lays the money out *A* 1,
And this is what he's bought.
—*Music Hall Song.*

She is *A* 1; in fact the aye-wunnest girl I ever saw.—*Shirley Brooks: The Gordian Knot.*

I am A 1, I am all right, comfortable.

It originated from *A* 1, *Lloyd's*, an abbreviation commonly used in mercantile circles to indicate the character of a ship and its appointments. To be classed *A* 1 at *Lloyd's* means that the vessel, its anchors, sails, tackle, and stores have been examined by official surveyors, and found to be in good trim, entitling it to be ranked as first class. When a vessel fails to reach the highest standard, other marks are bestowed.

A. 1 or **No. 1** (fenian). The latter is often incorrectly used. It should be *A* 1, a title for the commander of 900 men.

Aaron (thieves). The *Aaron* is the chief or captain of a gang or school of thieves. This cognomen is invariably accompanied with the prefix *The* —par excellence *the* first—simi-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

lar to the eldest representative of certain Irish and Scotch clans or families, such as *The* O'Conor Don, *The* Chisholm, &c. As *Aaron* was the first high-priest, and the *Aarons* are the chiefs of the Hebrew tribes, it is probably of Jewish origin in its slang application. *Aaron* was an old cant term for a cadger who combined begging with acting as a guide to the summits of mountains, chiefly to evade the laws against vagabondage, no doubt a play in its slang sense on its Hebrew equivalent, lofty.

A-baa (various). An *abaa* cove, a bad man; an *abaa* muff, a silly person. Among trade unionists an *abaa* signifies a non-unionist, who is generally assailed with the derisive shout, "Baa, baa, black sheep."

Abacter (old), a dishonest drover or shepherd, one who connives at the stealing of his master's cattle. Probably from the Latin *abactores*, stealers of cattle. One of the tricks of the *abacters* of old Smithfield was the driving a bullock into a jeweller's or other shop, and during the confusion and excitement of expulsion the *abacter's* confederates, under the cloak of assistance, would help themselves to any valuables handy. The *Annual Register* for 1818 records that one shop was so served three times in that year.

Abaddon (old), a treacherous thief, one who turns informer against his fellow-rogues. From the Hebrew *abaddon*, a destroyer; often confounded with the Cockneyism *a-bad-'un*, a bad one.

The prisoner, Money Moses, better known among thieves and fences as Moses the *abaddon*, has been, to my knowledge, for the last twenty years a receiver and dealer in stolen property.—*Report of the Trial of the Great Gold Dust Robbery.*

Abandannaad (thieves), one who risks his liberty by committing an act of contemptible petty larceny. The phrase originated through a footpad robbing a woman of a paltry bandanna (hence *abandannaad*) shawl valued at ninepence, for which a notorious high-class, or "high-toby" thief, one "Kiddy Harris," was hanged, although innocent of any connection with the robbery, the real culprit having soon after confessed to the crime. The poor prosecutrix was so horrified at discovering her mistaken identification that she became a lunatic. This incident was the chief cause of the passing of Sir Samuel Romilly's Act for the abolition of capital punishment for robberies on the highway of property under forty shillings value.

Abandoned habits (society), the riding costume of the "Pretty Horsebreakers" of "the Lady's Mile," in Hyde Park.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Abandonees (provincial), houseless tramps, wanderers. (Harlotry), a prostitute who has either deserted her husband or been abandoned by him.

The married *abandonée* looks down with a ludicrous assumption of superiority on such of her unfortunate companions as have never vowed at the altar "to obey." —*H. Downes Miles: Life of Richard Palmer* (*Dick Turpin*).

Abandonment, city term for the bankruptcy of a railway company.

Abandons (popular), foundlings, also applied to street prostitutes.

Abbess, lady (obsolete), the mistress of a brothel, also a procuress.

The infernal wretches who traffic in the souls and bodies of their helpless victims are called *lady abbesses*.—*W. Kidd: London and all its Dangers.*

The inmates were called the "nuns," and sometimes "Sisters of Charity." The French slang had formerly the corresponding expression "*abbesse*," the establishment being termed "*abbaye des s'offre à tous*," the inmates "*nonnes*," and the male associate of the mistress "*le sacristain*."

Abbey-lubber (nautical). This is an old term of reproach for idleness, and is applied only to the nautical *lubber*. In the "Burnynge of Paule's Church, 1563," it is thus explained: "An *abbey-lubber*, that was idle, well-fed, a long lewed lither loiterer, that might work, and would not."—*Smyth: Sailor's Word-Book.*

Abbot, the fancy man or husband of an abbess. A crozier'd *abbot*, or *abbot* on the cross, a man who keeps a brothel more for the purpose of robbery and extortion than that of prostitution.

Abbreviations. One of the most notable signs of the degradation and deterioration of a language is the popular habit, in many other countries besides England, of abbreviating words and reducing them to their first syllables, as if in a fast age the common multitude had only time to express themselves in monosyllables. It prevails alike in the learned halls of Oxford and Cambridge and the lowest slums of St. Giles's and Whitechapel. Among the most prominent may be cited the following which, though strictly speaking are not slang, touch on it as not being the original terms. When written or printed they are simply technical and conventional, but used verbally they are slang.

A.D.C., Aide-de-Camp; **Ad.G.**, adjutant; **Ad lib.**, *ad libitum*; **A.Q.M.G.**, Assistant Quarter-Master-General; **biz**, business; **C. in C.**, Commander-in-Chief; **C.-O.**, Commanding-Officer; **Cri'**, "Criterion" (restaurant); **D.A.Q.M.G.**, Deputy-Assistant Quarter-Master-General; **Ex-**

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

am., university or competitive examination; **Gent.**, gentleman; the **High**, High Street, Oxford; **I.G.**, Inspector-General; **Jocks.**, jockeys; **J.P.**, Justice of the Peace; **Mem.**, memorandum or member; **Mods.**, moderations (university); **N.C.O.**, Non-Commissioned Officer; **Nem. Con.**, *nemine contradicente;* **O.C.**, Old Cheltonian (Cheltenham College); **Ox.**, Oxford music-hall; **Pav.**, Pavilion music-hall; **Photo**, photograph; **Pops.**, popular concerts; **P.R.**, the prize ring; **Pub.**, or **public**, public-house; **Pug.**, pugilist; **Q.C.**, Queen's Counsel; **Q.M.G.**, Quarter-Master-General; **Rad.**, radical; **Rep.**, representative; **Sov.**, sovereign; **Spec.**, speculation; **Specs.**, spectacles; **S.U.O.**, Senior Under-Officer (R.M. Academy); **Tec.**, detective; **Tol** or **tol lol**, tolerable; **Tram.**, tram-car; **Typo.**, typographer or printer; **Varsity**, university; **Vet.**, veterinary surgeon; **Vice**, Vice-Chancellor.

Cab and *bus*, which were originally slang, have by dint of usage succeeded in establishing themselves in the language. In the novels of Charles Dickens they had already acquired a certain archaic flavour.

Abdar (Anglo-Indian), a teetotaller. In Hindostanee *abdar* signifies a water-carrier.

Abdeli (Anglo-Indian), a hypocrite, a canting preacher, a fastidious or false zealot.

Aberdeen cutlets (popular), cured or dried haddocks, or "haddies," as the Scotch term them.

Abiding (vagrants), "my *abiding*," generally refers to a temporary resting or hiding place, secure from capture. *Abiding*-by, hiding within call.

Abel had no friends, and as he was not considered to have an *abiding*-place, his being missed from one spot only led to the conclusion that he had gone to another.—*Mrs. Crowe: Lilly Dawson.*

Abigail (society), a lady's maid. More properly one of an ill temper, or tyrannical to her mistress.

Tyrrill, on entering his apartment, found that it was not lighted, nor were the *abigails* of Mrs. Dods quite so alert as a waiter at Longs'.—*Sir Walter Scott: St. Ronan's Well.*

Old English writers first employed it as a cant word for a termagant woman, and afterwards for a female bigamist. It seems probable that having originally received its present signification from Abigail, who called herself the handmaiden of David, the word became synonymous for a lady's maid, in the same way that Job and Samson came to be applied respectively to a model of patience and to a man of herculean strength. It was used by Beaumont and Fletcher as the name of a handmaiden in their comedy of the "Scornful Lady," and must have been further popularised by the maiden

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

name Abigail Hill of Mrs. Masham, waiting-woman to Queen Anne. It appears to have been adopted by many authors.

Whereas they petition to be freed from any obligation to marry the chamber-maid, we can by no means assent to it; the *Abigail*, by immemorial custom, being a deodand, and belonging to holy Church. —*Reply to Ladies' and Bachelors' Petition*, 1694.

By coach to the king's play-house, and there saw "The Scornful Lady" well acted; Doll Common doing *Abigail* most excellently.—*Pepys' Diary.*

There are many other instances of the names of characters of comedies or novels having been adopted to denote a whole class of individuals. Thus, an inn-keeper is called Boniface, from Farquhar's "Beaux' Stratagem." A Bob Acres, from Sheridan's "The Rivals," is synonymous with a coward. The French apply to a swindler the name of Robert Macaire, immortalised by Frédéric Lemaître in his impersonation of the character in the melodrama "l'Auberge des Adrets" —Robert Macaire, by the bye, was the name of a notorious bandit. One of the creations of Balzac, in his "Comédie Humaine," l'Illustre Gaudissard, has provided an epithet for a commercial traveller; and the French use *Abigail* with the same signification as on this side of the Channel.

On vit paraître une superbe berline, forme anglaise, à quatre chevaux, remarquable surtout par deux très jolies *abigails*, qui étaient juchées sur le siège du cocher.—*Brillat-Savarin: Physiologie du Goût.*

Abishag (thieves), the illegitimate child of a mother who has been seduced by a married man. In Hebrew it means the mother's error.

Walpole wrote—"I love David too well not to be jealous of an *Abishag* eight years old."—*Leigh Hunt's Indicator.*

Able-whackets (nautical), a popular sea-game with cards, wherein the loser is beaten over the palms of the hands with a handkerchief tightly twisted like a rope. It is very popular among sailors. French soldiers have a similar game, at least as regards the penalty, termed "*foutro.*"—See *Barrère's Argot and Slang.*

Abnormity (vulgarism), "a bleeding *abnormity*," an opprobrious epithet applied to the treacherous and deceitful; a person of crooked ways, an informer, a deformed or humpbacked person. *Abnormeth* was formerly used in a similar sense.

Abob (Winchester), a large white jug containing about a gallon in measure.

Abounding (American), applied to a person unmistakably prominent at a party or a public meeting.

When we are told of a professed wit more than usually *abounding* at an evening party, there is no temptation to recruit

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

our dictionaries from the English manufactured in the United States.—*Evening Standard.*

About East (American). A term used by men coming from the New England, *i.e.*, the eastern and purely Yankee States, to signify anything that meets with approval. Such things or people are said to be *about East.* J. Russell Lowell in his "Letters" well illustrates this colloquialism of men who regard everything done in their native states as right, and whose eyes are often turned to the old home amidst the roughing and struggle of the wilder West.

There was not a Yankee when Horace Mann regretted we had not the French word *s'orienter* in our speech, "whose problem has not always been to find out what is *about East.* The enthusiastic (though quaintly exaggerated) love borne the East by its sons is, perhaps, most strikingly illustrated in Major Jack Downing's oft-repeated phrase, 'I'd go *East* of sunrise any day to see sich a place.'"

About right (vulgarism). To do a thing *about right* is to do it thoroughly.

About the size of it (American). An expression indicating an average, or estimate, or expression of value, or an equivalent, in a very wide sense.

"Do you think that on the whole our Phebe would marry Seth?"

"Wall—I guess that on the whole that's *about the size of it.* She don't know her own mind yet, but she will when she comes to take the measure on't."—*American Story.*

When Eagle Davis died,
I was sittin' by his side,
'Twas in Boston, Massachusetts, and he said to me, "Old boy!
This climate as you see—
Isn't *just the size* for me;
Dead or livin', take me back if you can to Ellanoy."
—*A Ballad: In the Wrong Box.*

"Do you take this woman, whose hand you're a-squeezin', to be your lawful wife, in flush times an' skimp?"

"I reckon that's *about the size of it,* squire."—*Chicago Ledger.*

Above one's bend (American), beyond one's capacity.

It would be *above my bend* to attempt telling you all we saw among the Redskins.—*J. T. Cooper: The Oak Openings.*

In the South the phrase to signify the same idea is "above my huckle-berry," or "a huckleberry above my persimmon." *Bend* in this sense is probably derived from the Anglo-Saxon *bend,* signifying a bond or anything that binds—a contract.

For ich am comen hider to-day,
For to saven hem, yive y may,
And bring hem out of *bende.*
—*Anns and Amiloun,* l. 1233.

"Above my *bend*" is "more than I am bound or held to do"—a Saxon idiom.

Above par, below par (popular). To be *above* or *below par* signifies that the person using the expression is in better or worse health than usual. It is derived from the commercial term which refers to the price of stock, in that case the meaning being "average" or "level." *Above*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

par signifies also tolerably drunk; possessed of money beyond one's actual expense.

Abracadabra (medical), applied to any senseless gibberish or extravagant notion. Organic evolution has been stated to be the new *abracadabra* of science.

The French use the epithet *abracadabrant*, which is best rendered by "stunning" or "flabbergasting." *Abracadabra* was a cabalistic word in the Middle Ages. It was written in successive lines in the form of an inverted triangle, each line being shorter by a letter than the one above, till the last letter *A* formed the apex of a triangle at the bottom. It was said to have magical power, and when hung around the neck it was supposed to act as a charm against ague. It is thought to be derived from the Hebrew *ab*, father, *ruach*, spirit, and *dabar*, word. According to this derivation it represents the Trinity.

Abraham (popular), a cheap and trashy slop shop.

Abraham's balsam or **hempen elixir** (provincial), execution by hanging. So named from the hemp tree, a kind of willow, that is called *Abraham's* balm by botanists. By the gypsies it is called Father's balm, and it is used by them as a preservative of chastity. There is a peculiar stone in the marshy districts of the North of England called *Abraham's* stone; a piece of this stone is worn by the lower classes round their necks as a charm against ague, thus following the tradition that Abraham wore a precious stone round his neck to preserve him from disease; when Abraham died, God placed this stone in the sun.

Abraham cove (thieves), a mean, beggarly, despised thief, or rather sneak. Decker writes in 1608 that "The *Abraham cove* is a lustie strong rogue who walketh with a slade about his guarrons" (a sheet about his body). The Hon. Justice Matsel, of New York, in the Rogue's Lexicon, registers *Abraham cove* "a naked or poor man; a beggar in rags" (*Grove*).

Abraham grains (thieves), a publican who brews his own beer.

Abraham-man or **Abram-man** (ancient cant), a naked vagabond, a lame or sick beggar, a begging impostor. The Abraham ward in Bedlam had certain inmates who were allowed to go begging on behalf of the hospital, and were called Abraham-men, the term being applied subsequently to lame or sick beggars, or those shamming distress. The begging impostors designated as Abram-men were well known in the sixteenth century, and are mentioned in the "Fraternitie of

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Vagabondes," 1575. "An Abraham-man is one that walketh bare-armed and bare-legged, and fayneth to be mad, calling himself Poor Tom." Abraham-men, in Stephen's "Essays and Characters," 1615, are designated as fugitive ragamuffins, pretending to be cripples or impotent soldiers. Harman thus describes them:—

These *Abraham-men* be those that fayne themselves to haue beene mad; and haue beene kept eyther in Bethelem or some other pryson a good tyme, and not one amongst twenty that euer came in pryson for any such cause; yet wyll they saye howe pitiously and most extreamely they haue beene beaten and dealt with all. . . . These begge money.—*Caveat or Warening for Common Cursetors.*

The old English dramatists use *Abraham* as a cant word for nakedness, in which sense it is still common among tramps, who say of a naked person, "He was dressed in Abraham's suit, a suit of everlasting flesh colour."

A tawny beard was termed an "Abraham-coloured beard," probably in accordance with the directions for representing all the persons in Scripture as given in the "Byzantine Painters' Guide," the "Book of Ballymoti," &c. In all of these the beards are specially described. A "Judas-coloured beard," a word of similar import, was so called because Judas Iscariot was traditionally supposed to have had a red beard, and was so represented by early Italian painters. But the epithet of an Abraham-coloured beard remains as yet without any explanation or justification. To "sham Abraham" was to feign sickness or distress, and the term is used to the present day.

THE "SHAM ABRAHAM" AGITATION.—Matters must have come to a pretty pass when even the *Daily News* withdraws its support from the Trafalgar Square impostors.—*The Globe.*

A popular song of the last century, when forgery of bank notes for one pound was a common crime, and when the hanging of the detected criminal was quite as frequent, has preserved for posterity the name of Abraham Newland, the then cashier of the Bank of England, who signed all the notes in circulation:—

Sham Abraham you may,
But you must not sham Abraham Newland.

Sailors use the term to denote an idle fellow who wants to be put on the sick list so as to shirk duty. Workmen also use it, with the meaning "to pretend to be ill," in order to get off work.

Abraham suit, on the, any kind of dodge or deceit designed to excite sympathy, used by begging-letter impostors.

Abraham work (popular), ill-paid trumpery work; trading shams; showy swindles.

Abraham's willing (rhyming slang), a shilling.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES INDIA

Abregoyns (American). Bartlett spells this corruption of "aborigines" as Abergoins or Abrogans.

I have often heard *Ab-ree-goynes* used in jest for aborigines, especially by Virginians, but never Abrogans or Abergoins.—*C. G. Leland.*

Abridgments (old), knee breeches, small-clothes.

Frantz (producing a pair of small-clothes which Toke examines)—"Your master is von beggar," &c.

Toke—"I accept the *abridgments*, but you've forgotten to line the pockets."—*Lytton: Money.*

Abroad (Winchester), a boy is said to be *abroad* when his name is taken off "Continent Roll" or Sick List, and he returns to school duties.

Abroaded (society), a noble defaulter on the Continent to avoid creditors. It is the police officials' slang for convicts sent to a colonial or penal settlement, but applied by thieves in this country, and formerly in the colonies, to imprisonment merely.

A.B.S. First-class sailors are rated as A.B.S., "able-bodied seamen." Sometimes facetiously translated as "a bottle-sucker."

The Albatross
Is the captain and boss,
The sea-gull queers
Are the offi-ceers;
And the Carey chickens, as I guess,
Is every one an A.B.S.
—*From a MS. of Sea Ballads.*

Abs. (Winchester), abbreviation for absent. To get *abs.* is to get away.

Abscotchalater (thieves), one who is hiding away from the police. From the American *absquatulate*, to run away.

Absence (Eton). This word in the slang of the boys is meant to convey just the opposite meaning. It signifies also roll-call.

Absent without leave (thieves), broken out of gaol; escaped from the police. (Common), not forthcoming when wanted for some crime, debt, or difficulty; absconded.

Mr. Roupell, the member for Lambeth, was reported *absent without leave.—Morning Star: Parliamentary Summary.*

At no former period on the expiration of the racing season were there so many speculators *absent without leave.—Sporting Life.*

Absit (university), a permit to be absent from college, hall, or chapel for the day.

Abskize, abschize (American). In a sketch of Western life published in 1833, in a Philadelphia newspaper, this word occurs as meaning to depart or go away. It would seem to be derived from the Dutch *afscheyden*; German *abscheiden*, to leave or depart.

Absquatulate (American), to disappear, to run away, to abscond.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

The reverse of to "squat," from *ab* and *squat*, originally settlers' slang for abandoning a location when fearing an unwelcome visitation, and settling on a more remote spot.

You'd thank me to *absquatulate*, as the Yankees say. . . . Well, I will in a minute.—*Rhoda Broughton: Cometh up as a Flower.*

Bartlett calls this "a factitious vulgarism." It was in use nearly fifty years ago. At that time running away with money by bank presidents, &c., became very common in consequence of financial panics or collapses, and it was the fashion to coin words from the names of the delinquents, as "to Swartwout" or "to Schylerise," &c. When we reflect that there are many Yankee and Western men accustomed to spelling bees, and perhaps more familiar with the difficult words of the dictionary than are many scholars, it does not appear remarkable that we find in American slang a number of words which have a learned length and Latin sound. To any half-educated man with a fancy for extravagant expression, and familiar with "abscond," "to squattle away," and "perambulate," *absquatulate* would readily suggest itself in an effort to recall one or the other. Once uttered and heard, it would become popular. To deliberately invent a new word, without some foregoing suggestion or basis, and get it adopted, is one of the rarest events in the world, even in America, where men are continually attempting it.

The various slang synonyms are "to skedaddle, to cut one's lucky, to sling one's hook, to mizzle, to bolt, to cut and run, to slip one's cable, to step it, to leg it, to tip the double, to amputate one's mahogany, to make or to take tracks, to hook it, to slope, to slip it, to paddle, to evaporate, to vamoose, to tip your rags a gallop, to walk one's chalks, to pike, to hop the twig, to turn it up, to cut the cable and run before the wind," and in the lingo of the light-fingered and sure-footed gentry, "to make beef, to guy, to speel." —*Barrère: Argot and Slang.*

Abusive drill, adjutant's drill. The adjutant, being responsible for the drill of a regiment, has constant parades for instruction and practice, at which he may occasionally use strong language. He is especially concerned with the development of recruits, the perfecting of awkward squads, and of careless or inattentive soldiers sent back to drill as a punishment. A salutary change has no doubt come over the army, which was once proverbial for cursing and swearing. Even the highest ranks were addicted to it, as witness the old saying, "How we swore in Flanders," and the story in Greville's Memoirs of the Duke of Wellington and Lord Anglesea

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

at Waterloo. When the latter was wounded, he cried, "I've lost my leg, by G—d!" "Have you, by G—d!" replied the Duke. But language of correction and reproof is still likely to be strong, and may at times become "abusive" when issuing from a much aggravated adjutant's mouth.

Academies, canting, the low lodgings or public-houses for cadgers and tramps, lurkers, or the houses of call or country lodging-houses for beggars and impostors who solicit alms by a written petition or forged soldier's or sailor's discharge.

Academy (obsolete), an organisation of thieves; a rendezvous for practising the flash art "dodge;" a goal; a brothel. Termed also "flash-drum," "nanny-shop," "buttocking-shop," and in police-court reports, "disorderly house." Establishments where "good beds" are provided for couples are termed "houses of accommodation," which correspond to the French "*maisons de passe.*" Peter Pindar writes that "*academy* is an euphemistic expression for a house that harbours courtezans." A "character *academy*," a rendezvous for characterless shopmen, footmen, barmen, and others, whereat false characters are concocted, and other plans are matured for robbing employers. These places are chiefly alehouses kept by discarded servants; as the subscriptions are enforced monthly on those in place, the funds are very large, and each *academy* keeps a staff of well-educated teachers who are well experienced in all the craft of trade, and well-appointed agencies are kept up in all the manufacturing towns, acting as references, and to give good written characters. A "gammoning *academy*" is a reformatory for juvenile criminals.

Acceleration (vagrants). "He died of *acceleration*," he died of starvation.

Accelerators, the union relieving officers, from their frequent refusal to give food to the dying outcast, whose miserable career of want often ends in death. In such cases the jury invariably accompany their verdict of natural death with the rider, "Accelerated through the want of the common necessaries of life."

Accommodated (thieves), sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

For practising on the flat, I was apprehended and was *accommodated* with a month's board and lodging at the expense of the nation.—*Mayhew: London Labour and London Poor.*

Accommodation houses (common), brothels. Their female frequenters are termed "Ladies of *accommodating morals*," being a trifle more genteel than their sisters, the street prostitutes.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Accommodation shops (city). The officers of certain "Finance Joint Stock Companies" who practise the *accommodation swindle* on "Lloyd's Bonds," Debentures, Preference, and all other shares.

Accommodators (thieves), chiefly ex-police constables who negotiate a compounding of felonies and other crimes by bribing witnesses and prosecutors.

According to Cocker (common), proper, according to rule, according to the best authority. This phrase refers to a famous writing-master of the name of *Cocker*, who in the time of Charles II. composed and published an elaborate Treatise on Arithmetic.

Professor De Morgan writes that the phrase as a popular saying originated in 1756, and was taken up by the people from Murphy's play of "The Apprentice," in which the strong point of the old merchant Wingate is his extreme reverence for *Cocker* and his Arithmetic. In America, a similar confirmation phrase is in common use, except that the name of *Gunter* is substituted for that of *Cocker*. Gunter was a famous arithmetician, and no doubt the American phrase is the oldest. *According to John Norie* is the standard of appeal among sailors. John Norie compiled a very popular work entitled, "The Navigator's Standard Manual." Among schoolboys *according to Walkinghame* is the confirmation of a rule.

According to the revised statutes (American). Anything that is legal, or properly authorised or established. An expression first used in this general or humorous sense by a lawyer of New York named Halstead, in *Vanity Fair*, in 1860.

Account (nautical). Going upon *account* is a phrase for buccaneering.

(Sporting), to *account* for, refers to one's personal share in killing.

The persecuted animals (rats) bolted above ground; the terrier *accounted* for one, the keeper for another.—*Thackeray: Vanity Fair.*

Accounts (common). To cast up *accounts* is to vomit, and in thieves' lingo it signifies to become evidence against an accomplice.

Accumulatives (American). At times an editor in the United States will make a remark or a joke, then another will cite it and add a remark or a parody of it, which will again be commented on by a third. Thus one says:—

"William, familiarly known as 'Bill' Sticker, was indicted last week in Leadville for passing counterfeit money. This

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

is according to law, for he who runs may read in any street, 'Bill Stickers will be prosecuted.'"

To which a rival adds:

"We say amen to that. We were stuck yesterday ourself with a bad bill."

And a third exclaims:

"Suppose Sam Jones should put a bowie into Bill Sticker, who would be the Bill Sticker in that case? Let us reflect!"

We have seen as many as twenty and more of these accumulative paragraphs of this kind "going the rounds" of the country press.

Accumulator (racing), a person who backs one horse, and then if it wins results (sometimes including original stakes) goes on to some other horse.

Ace of spades (old slang), a widow, alluding to the hue of the card. This slang word is given in the "Lexicon Balatronicum," London 1811.

Ack (Christ's Hospital). In the slang of Blue Coat boys this word is expressive of denial or refusal.

Ack men or **ack pirates** (nautical), fresh water thieves. Probably from a corruption of "ark," meaning boat, as the term "ark ruffs" has a like signification. *Ack*, however, seems to have some connection with the old term *aker* (apparently from the Anglo-Saxon *egor*, the flowing of the sea), which is still applied on the Trent to a kind of eddying twirl which occurs on the river when it is flooded. In the dialect of Craven, according to Wright, a ripple on the surface of the water is termed an *acker*.

Acknowledge the corn, to (American). To admit that one has been got the better of, or is outdone.

It is said that an Illinois hoosier once came to New Orleans with two boats, one loaded with corn, the other with potatoes. He fell among gamblers, was made drunk, and "anted off" or lost both his boats. During the night there came a storm and the boat full of corn was sunk. In the morning the gamblers came to claim their stakes. The hoosier with great firmness replied, "Gentlemen, I acknowledge the corn, but the potatoes you shan't have—by thunder!"—*American Newspaper.* (*Given more fully in Bartlett's Dictionary.*)

A-cock (popular), knocked over, defeated; suddenly surprised, astounded.

He made a rush at me and sent me and my barrow all *a-cock.*—*Thames Police Report*, May 25, 1867.

Also, cocked up.

The small grey sprig on the crown of our pericranium and the thin grey tail *acock* behind.—*Recreations of Christopher North.*

Acorn (old cant), the gallows tree.

The *acorn* is planted for thee, my bonny boy.—*Wilson's Tales of the Border.*

Acquisitive (American), booty, plunder.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

The officers surprised them packing up the *acquisitive.—The Man in Possession, by Leman Rede: Sunday Times.*

An *acquisitive* cove, a man given to picking and stealing.

Acreocracy (American), a coined word to signify the landlord interest.

The introduction of a plutocracy amongst the aristocracy and the *acreocracy*, though it has tended somewhat to vulgarise our social institutions, has not been without its good effect. — *Hallberger's Illustrated Magazine* (1878).

Acres (theatrical), a coward, from the pusillanimous Bob *Acres* in Sheridan's play.

In Ireland "a regular *acres* man" meant a professed duellist. From "the fifteen *acres*," formerly a field famous for duels in Dublin. In India, *Acre* Farm, near Calcutta, is used for duels, hence "a regular *acre's* man."

Across lots (American). "In the most expeditious manner" (as regards time), or (as regards distance) "by the shortest cut." "He may be said to have attained place and power *across lots*," *i.e.*, with great rapidity. This phrase comes down to us from the old settlers' days, when the shortest road then, as indeed now, was *across lots*, and not by the main road.

You would cut *across the lot* like a streak of lightning if you had a chance.—*Charcoal Sketches*, i. 35.

And in the "Biglow Papers," Mr. J. Russell Lowell says:—

"To all the mos' *across lot* ways of preachin' an' convertin'."

Acting dickey (naval), an officer acting as lieutenant although not confirmed by the Admiralty. (Legal), a clerk or agent acting in the name of a lawyer on the Rolls. The practice of *acting dickey* is generally resorted to in questionable proceedings.

Action (American), quick work, an immediate result. Western card playing, &c., slang.

"That's my kind," says old Sam; "you get *action* there at every turn. No waiting for any darned cards to turn up."—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Actionize, to (legal), to cite before a legal tribunal.

Act of Parliament (old), small beer. A military term referring to the fact that publicans were by Act of Parliament compelled to supply billeted soldiers with five pints daily gratis.

Actual (American), "the *actual*," money.

As for happiness in this world without the rhino, the chink, or the *actual*, you might as soon think of winning a woman's affections in a raffle.—*Dow's Sermons.*

Ad., adver. (printer's), abbreviations for advertisement.

Adam (popular), master-man, foreman, or superintendent; termed also "gaffer" or "boss of the show."

Adam's ale (old), water as a beverage. It is supposed that this was the only drink of our first parent, and that before

NATIONAL ARCHIVES INDIA

Noah planted the vine all were perforce teetotalers.

> Your claret's too hot, sirrah drawer, go bring
> A cup of cold *Adam* from the next purling spring.
> —*T. Brown: Works.*

Another old term for the beverage which "does not intoxicate but does not cheer," is "fish broth." The French argot has the contemptuous epithets "ratafia de grenouilles," and "vase," sometimes varied to "vasinette."

Adam Tiler (old cant), a pickpocket's confederate, who receives the stolen article, and runs off with it. Origin unknown, but supposed to have been the name of one notorious for his skill at this kind of thing. It is possibly from the German *Theiler*, one who shares, a confederate.

Added to the list (racing), is said of a horse which has been castrated. A like operation performed on a man is termed in French slang "Abélardiser," from the barbarous treatment of Abélard by Chanoine Fulbert. When a horse has been imperfectly castrated he is called a "rig."

Addle-cove (popular), a foolish man, same as addle-pate. "Literally, a rank sucker."—*N. Y. Slang Dict.*

Addled-egg (common), a canard, an egg from the fabulous *mare's nest.*

Addle-headed (common), with little brains, or empty-headed; from Anglo-Saxon *adela*, mud.

Addle-pate (common), one whose brain cannot distinguish between the objects which are outside it and the imaginations within.

Addle-pot (common), a spoil-sport; a mar-all.

Adept (thieves), a pickpocket, a conjuror.

> An *adept* must be one of an audacious spirit with a nimble conveyance and a vocabulary of cabalistic phrases to astonish the beholder.—*The Merry Companion, or Delights for the Ingenious, by Richard Neve (Juggler)*, 1721.

(Old cant), an alchemist.

Adjutant's gig (military), the barrack roller, which is drawn, presumably under the adjutant's orders, by the defaulters—the men under punishment—who are the slaves, the hewers of wood and drawers of water for officers, comrades, and the barracks generally.

Admiral (naval), the ship which carries the *admiral.* Formerly all ships were called *admirals.*

> Our tall *admirals* that visit every sea.—*Cornelius O'Dowd.*

Admiral of the Blue (old slang), a public-house keeper, so called, says Grose, because publicans were accustomed to wear blue aprons. Properly an *Admiral*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

of the Blue is one of the third class in the navy, and holds the rear in an engagement.

Admiral of the narrow seas (nautical), one who from drunkenness vomits into the lap of his opposite companion.

Admiral of the Red (common), a person whose ruby countenance gives unequivocal signs of his penchant for the bottle. Properly, *Admiral of the Red* is an admiral of the second class, and holds the centre in an engagement.

As regards the word *admiral* taken in its literal sense, it may be interesting to remark that this word seems to have been introduced into Europe by the Genoese or Venetians in the twelfth or thirteenth century, from the Arabic Amir-al-bahr, commander of the sea, the terminating word having been omitted (Webster).

Admirals of the red, white, and blue (popular), street and square beadles, office and club doorkeepers.

Admiral of the white (popular), a white-faced person, a coward; a woman in a faint.

Adobe (American), a house made of dried clay in *adobes* or large clay blocks. "To the old *adobe*," is the death-cry of the vigilants of San Francisco when a criminal is tried by lynch law and condemned to death; the old *adobe* being the slang title of the custom-house where the execution of malefactors takes place. *Adobe* signifies a sun-baked brick, from the Spanish.

At Los Angelos, county California, the skilled silk workers are comfortably housed in *adobe* cottages.—*United States Correspondent, Standard*, May 1869.

Adoi, adoy (gypsy), there. "*Adoi* se miri dye!"—"There is my mother!"

Adonee (old cant), the Deity. Evidently Yiddish, from *Adonai*, Lord. Martin Luther uses the word as a cant term among beggars for God.

A tramps' toast says:—

> "May the good *Adonee*
> Soften the strong;
> Lighten our loads
> And level our roads."

Adopted (American) signifies a naturalised citizen. President Lincoln proposed to Congress that the word *adopted* should be struck from all public documents, so as to place foreign citizens and native-born citizens on an equality.

Adopter, a scoundrel who pretends to be desirous of *adopting* a child, out of philanthropic motives, on the payment of a certain sum, and either gets rid of it at the earliest opportunity, or leaves it to die of starvation and neglect.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

There can be no doubt that if the history of every one of the ten thousand of the young human pariahs that haunt London streets could be inquired into, it would be found that no insignificant percentage of the whole were children abandoned and left to their fate by mock *adopters* such as F. X.—*James Greenwood: The Seven Curses of London.*

The initials refer to the subjoined advertisement, which is given here as a specimen of the mode of proceeding of *adopters.*

Adoption.—A person wishing a lasting and comfortable home for a young child of either sex will find this a good opportunity. Advertisers, having no children of their own, are about to proceed to America. Premium, fifteen pounds. Respectable references given and required. Address, F. X.

Adoption. (Low) "doption," an adopted child. In baby farming, "to be mounted for lopping the 'doption,'" is to be placed in the criminal dock for causing the death of an adopted child.

Adown in the viol (thieves), a hue and cry against a detected culprit. *Adown*, although now considered vulgar, was formerly used by our best writers in place of down; viol refers to the noise of the old-fashioned instrument when played by street musicians, which was very different from its offspring the violin.

Ad portas (Winchester), a Latin speech delivered by the Senior College Prefect to the Warden of New College, and the "Posers" (see this word), &c., under the middle gate when they come down at election to examine for Winchester and New College scholarships and exhibitions.

Adrom (gypsy), away. From *a* and *drom*, a road or way; Greek δρομός. "Jasa tu *adrom*, mān hatch akai"—"Go thou away, do not stop here!"

Adsum (Charterhouse), roll-call or name calling.

Adullamites (Parliamentary), the seceders from the Liberal party led by Mr. Gladstone during the Reform Agitation of 1867. To "take refuge in the cave of Adullam" is a phrase borrowed from the Old Testament, and was used during the great American civil war in 1863 by President Lincoln in reference to the partisans of General M'Lellan after his dismissal from the command of the army of the Potomac. It was afterwards used by John Bright in the British Parliament.

John Bright invented another apt phrase when he dubbed the seceders from the Reform party *Adullamites.* Parliamentary tactics have naturally given birth to many slang words.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

Adusta, adosta (gypsy), enough.

"Būt *adosta* Romany chals"—"Many gypsies."—*Lavengro.*

Advantage (Californian); pocket *advantage*, carrying a pistol charged and at half cock in the coat pocket, so that if the hand is placed in the pocket it rests

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

on the handle. Sometimes a shot is fired at an adversary through the pocket itself. This is only done with a derringer.

Ægers (university slang), letters of excuse; from the Latin *æger.*

Perhaps it's a deep-laid scheme of yours to post a heap of *ægers* while you're a Freshman, and then to get better and better every term, and make the Dons think that you are improving the shining hours by doing chapels and lectures more regularly, artful Giglamps!—*Cuthbert Bede: The Adventures of Mr. Verdant Green.*

Ægrotat (university), a remission of a collegiate duty, generally obtained by some questionable excuse to the principal. From *ægrotare*, to be ill.

Æsthetic (American). This word, from being supposed to mean "artistic," has been extended to excellence of all kinds. In 1884 a grocer in Philadelphia advertised very seriously and innocently that he had some "very *æsthetic* cheese." It is occasionally abused in much the same way in England.

Aetna (Winchester), an ambitious appellation given to a small boiler for "brewing," that is, making cocoa or coffee, the combustible used being spirits of wine.

A. F., abbreviation for "Across the Flat," one of the numerous subdivisions of the racing track at Newmarket. The *A. F.* course commences at the running gap in the Ditch, and ends at the winning post of the Rowley Mile, whence also to the Grand Stand. The distance *A. F.* is one mile, two furlongs, and seventy-three yards.

Affidavit men (old), men who loitered about the courts of justice ready to swear anything for pay. They were also known as Knights of the Post, and were distinguished by the straw which they stuck in the heels of their shoes. The word has become obsolete, but not so the practice, as there are even now plenty of scoundrels loitering outside courts of justice who are ready to swear to anything for half-a-crown.

Affinity (American), a person of the opposite sex who is perfectly in harmony with any one. A *passional affinity* is one in whom intense sexual desire exists in common with all other attributes.

Affirmative side, the winning side, the side most likely to forward one's self-interest and promotion.

He was shrewd, sharp, and subtle enough to be always on the *affirmative side.*—*The Silent Placeman*, 1824.

Cats and dogs have never been able tew agree on the main question that both seem tew want the *affirmative side* tew on'st.—*Josh Billings: On Cats.*

Afflictions (drapers), mourning habiliments. *Afflictions* are quiet, *i.e.*, mourning goods are not in demand. Mitigated *afflictions*, half mourning.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Affygraphy (popular) is said of anything that fits nicely.

"Is it in?" said he—"It is," said she.
"Does it fit?" said he—"It does," said she.
"Quite *affygraphy?*"—"Quite *affygraphy.*"
—*The Lady and the Shoemaker.*

Aficionado (gypsy), a non-gypsy who lives and mixes with the tribe. From the Spanish *afección*, affection.

An *aficionado*, a true lover and student of gypsy life.—*Experiences of a Roumanie Rhei: Penny Illustrated Paper.*

Afloat (common), in a promising or a prominent state or condition.

All the town's *afloat.*—*Gay.*

A-fly (low), to get *a-fly* is to become expert at.

Go first to costermongery,
To every fakement get *a-fly*,
And pick up all their slangery.
—*The Leary Man.*

Afterclap (American). In Pennsylvania and the Western States of America this signifies an additional, and very often unjust demand beyond the agreement or bargain originally made. "None of your *afterclaps.*" In Scotland the same word means "evil consequences."

After-dinner man (old), a deep drinker.

The good Baronet (Sir Francis Burdett) was not only a foxhunter, but a celebrated *after-dinner man.* It must have been a good bout indeed in which he was worsted. —*Dublin Sketch Book*, 1830.

After four (Eton), the interval between 3 and 6 P.M.

Afternoon buyer (popular), one who waits until after the market dinner with the hope of purchasing cheaper than before that time.

Afternoon farmer (popular), one who neglects his farming operations until late in the season, or holds over his stock until late in the day, in the hope of getting a better price.

After twelve (Eton), the recess after morning school and before afternoon class.

I used to visit him regularly in the dear old college from the *after twelve.*—*Whyte-Melville: Good for Nothing.*

Croppie, who abominated all laws and delighted in transgressions, resolved to go to the fair, and without difficulty he persuaded the Pug and me to join him. One day *after twelve* the three of us passed over Windsor Bridge in the same condition as the "bold adventurers" alluded to in Gray's Ode.—*Brinsley Richards: Seven Years at Eton.*

Age (American, cards, technical), the oldest hand or player to the left of the dealer, who, at Poker, is allowed to pass the first round after the hands are "helped," and to come in again after all have raised or gone out. He signifies his intention by saying "my *age*," or "I pass the *age.*" The effect is that the first player becomes the last player. This expedient is sometimes used to conceal a very good hand, and at other times as preparatory to

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

a "bluff," or a poor one. As cases of absolute equality among hands are all but impossible at Poker, little is risked by it.

Aged (racing, technical), any horse over six years is described as *aged*.

We really do abuse the powers of our blood stock in its undeveloped stage, and use up our racehorses at far too early an age. There is no disputing the fact that Bendigo stands alone as a first-class *aged* representative racehorse now on the turf, where in former days we had our Lanercosts, Touchstones, Beeswings, Alice Hawthorns, &c., by the dozen.—*Sporting Times.*

Agee or **ajee** (American). Bartlett defines this as "askew;" as to have one's hat *agee*. From the term *gee*, used in driving cattle. It seems rather to be derived from *gee*, "to agree with," "to fit," with the prefix negative *a*. In America it is also applied to a door ajar or partly open, as appears by the following rhymes from a comic paper published in Philadelphia in 1833 or 1834 on an incident which occurred there:—

I am an undertaker true,
And know my business well;
I'm just the man to punish you,
For sending folks to hell.

You quite forgot, behind the door,
When it was left *agee*,
I caught you hugging Mrs. ——,
Your heart quite full of glee.

According to Wright (Provincial Dictionary), *agee* is North English, and means both awry and ajar. The word is, however, at present far more generally used in America than England.

Aggari (Anglo-Indian), lit. fire-carriage, applied by the natives to a railway train.—*Hobson Jobson, being an Anglo-Indian Glossary*, London 1886.

Aggerawators (popular), a corruption of "aggravators," the lock of hair formerly in vogue alike among honest costermongers and men of the Bill Sykes type, worn twisted back from the temple towards the ear. It is now in favour among gypsies and a few "bruisers." The French peasants of Berry are fond of this ornament, which recalls, though much shorter, the old cadenettes of the French hussars.

His hair was carefully twisted into the outer corners of each eye, till it formed a variety of that description of semi-curls usually known as *haggeravators*.—*Dickens: Sketches by Boz.*

Agitate the communicator (common), ring the bell.

Agitator (common), a bell rope; the street door knocker.

Aglal, glal (gypsy), before, in front of.

Agogare (American thieves' slang), be quick! A warning signal. From *agog*.

Agonise (American), to endure agony. A favourite word with young or "sensational" clergy-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

men. The writer once heard one of these declare (in Kentucky), that "We must *agonise* if we would see God," and he has since met with the same expression in print.

Agony (common), to put or to pile the *agony* on, means to thrill, to horrify, to keep up or intensify the excitement attendant on sensational productions.

"Wife" is a fair specimen of a book of this kind. It is all *agony* from beginning to end. There are no pauses for lengthened descriptions of summer evenings or old-fashioned gardens; there are neither panegyrics of virtuous heroes, nor verbal portraits of lovely heroines. The *agony* is put on at full pressure in the first chapter, and is never shut off till the last.—*Saturday Review.*

That particular column in the daily papers, which is headed by private communications between individuals, is called the "agony column."

And how does she propose to succeed? Poliaky? The *agony* column? Placards, or a Bell-man?—*Black: A Princess of Thule.*

HARD.—I beg of you to see me. Your refusal does more harm than good. Your time will suit me. Please don't refuse. I think it most unkind of you, considering all things.—Q.

—*Standard.*

The *agony* column does not always contain unpleasant or dismal tidings. It is used extensively by lovers and as a means of communication between thieves, &c.

SHOULD be delighted to take sweet counsel of an Oracle so lovely, free, and mild. True grief to have marred Elysian blisses.

SWEETHEART.—Shall be in town shortly after Christmas. So longing to see you, love. True and faithful even to your shadow.

THE MOON.—Bless us and keep us, what can you mean? I never supposed.—ELIAB.

—*Standard.*

It is said that the last Carlist revolution was arranged entirely by means of the *Times'* agony column.

Football players say of the side that makes a number of goals that it "piles on the *agony*." In theatrical parlance an "*agony* piler" is an actor who performs in a sensational play in which the blood of the audience is made to curdle and their flesh creep. To "pile on the *agony*" was originally American; it was common in 1840.

Aidh (tinker), butter.

Ainoch (tinker), a thing.

Air and exercise (thieves), penal servitude at a convict settlement. Two stretches of *air and exercise*, *i.e.*, two years' penal servitude.

Airing (racing), a horse is said to be "out for an *airing*" when there is no intention on the part of those concerned with him that he should win.

Air line road, an (American), an expression applied to a railroad track when it passes over

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the level unbroken prairie in a straight line without bend or gradient. "A straight shoot" is also another term for this.

Aja, ajaw (gypsy), so. Often pleonastic *kushte ajā*, good enough.

> "If waver fóki kāms lis,
> Mūkk lendy kair *ajā*."

If other people like it, let them do so."—*E. H. Palmer.*

Akalak (Anglo-Indian), a cape worn by Indian officers on state occasions.

Akerman's Hotel (obsolete), Newgate prison, the governor being, in 1787, a man named Akerman.

Akonyo (gypsy), alone.

> "Me shon *akonyo* gilde yoi,
> Men buti ruzhior,
> Te sari chiricloi adoi,
> Pen mandy giloir."

"I am all alone," she sang, "among many flowers, and all the birds are singing songs to me."—*Janet Tuckey.*

Alay, alé (gypsy), down.—("Besh-tu *alay* adoi te me te vel pen tute a kushto gūdlo"—"Sit thou down there, and I will tell thee a nice story!")

Albany beef (American), the sturgeon, so called because Washington Irving spoke of the "hospitable boards" of that city as "smoking with sturgeon." It is also sometimes called "nigger beef," sturgeon being in some parts of the United States a cheap fish which was once held in very little account. It is to be remarked that several kinds of fish are often spoken of as meat. Thus a Yarmouth bloater is called a two-eyed steak, or a Yarmouth capon; a kind of fish in India is known as Bombay ducks, and a fresh herring is a Billingsgate pheasant.

Albert (common), a watch chain.

Albertopolis, according to Hotten, a facetious appellation given by the Londoners to the Kensington Gore district. Now obsolete.

Aldea (Anglo-Indian and frontier American), a village or a villa, a country-seat. From the Spanish *aldea*, which is in turn derived from the Arabic.

Alderman (popular), a half-crown, a long pipe, a turkey. An *alderman* in chains, is a turkey hung with sausages. "Blood and guts *alderman*," a fat and pompous man.

(Thieves), an *alderman*, a large "jemmy" or crowbar, used for opening safes. An extra large one is called a "lord mayor."

Alderman Lushington, intoxicating drink. (Patter imported into Australia by convicts.)

Beer or liquor of any kind is *lush*; to *lush* is to drink. Speaking of a person who is drunk, the "flash" fraternity say, "*Alderman Lushington* is concerned," or

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

simply, "He has been voting for the *alderman*." A *lush-crib*, or *lush-ken*, is a public-house.—*From Vaux's Memoirs.*

Aldgate pump (old), a draught on *Aldgate pump* meant a bill of exchange drawn on persons no better able to pay than *Aldgate pump*.

Ale draper (old), ale-house keeper.

Alemnoch (tinker), milk.

Ales (Stock Exchange), a nick-name used by men on 'Change for Allsopp & Sons' stock.

Alexandra limp, the (common), a fashionable craze, resulting from a toadying imitation of a certain lady well known in society who walks with a slight limp.

Your own advocacy for the Grecian bend and the *Alexandra limp*—both positive and practical imitations of physical affliction.—*Chambers's Journal.*

Alfred David (popular), affidavit; also *Affidavy* and *Davy*.

I almost dropped when up she jumped
And said, "I'm ready now,
But why this look of thusness
That is stealing o'er thy brow?"
I cried, "Avaunt and touch me not!"
Then bolted up the lane,
And I'll take my *Alfred David* hot,
She don't catch me there again.
—*Harry Adams: Blighted Love.*

He is engaged in receiving the *afterdavy* of a man who got his head broke by a tinker.—*Kingsley: Geoffrey Hamlyn.*

Algerines (theatrical), performers who bully the manager of a theatre when the salaries are not paid. Also petty money-borrowers.

All abroad (common) an expression used when any undertaking has failed, and a person is uncertain as to the course to pursue. A variant is "all at sea."

"Alas! poor ghost!" It's a doubt which is most
To be pitied—one doom'd to fry, broil, boil, and roast,—
Or one bandied about thus from pillar to post,—
To be *all abroad*—to be "stumped," not to know where
To go—so disgraced.
—*Ingoldsby Legends: A Legend of Dover.*

Allacompain or **alicumpaine** (rhyming slang), rain, termed "parney" in thieves' lingo; also a common sweetmeat derived from the name of the plant.

Of ups and downs I've felt the shock,
Since days of bats and shuttlecocks,
And *alicumpaine* and Albert rocks
When I the world began.
—*The Leary Man.*

He had been noted for an immoderate partiality for the saccharine though indigestible cates known as *alecampane*, and Bonaparte's ribs.—*Sala: The Baddington Peerage.*

All afloat, rhyming slang for a coat.

All alive (tailors), garments unfairly or slovenly made.

All along of, an illiterate synonym for "on account of," "by reason of," or "owing to such and such a cause." The phrase oc-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

curs in print so early as the time of Chaucer, and is therefore in all probability much older.

All-a-mort (old), struck dumb, confounded.

All around sports (American), men who take an interest in all kinds of sport—racing, shooting, fishing, ball, pedestrianism, sparring, cock-fighting, ratting, &c.

All at sea (common), bewildered, confused; "*all at sea* on the question."

"Dear, do scientific men become sailors when they are scared?"

"Guess not. Why?"

"Because this paper says that since the earthquake the scientists are *all at sea*."—*Pittsburg Bulletin.*

All beer and skittles, recent slang signifying that the life and the circumstances of the person to whom it is made applicable are not so pleasant or so happy as they might be, or as they are represented to be. The allusion is to the supposed amusements of working men in the skittle ground, and to the beer which they drink to refresh themselves during the exercise.

Even the life of an heir to the Russian throne is not *all beer and skittles.* The young Grand Duke has narrowly escaped being sent to the Crimea instead of to Cannes for the benefit of his health.—*Globe.*

The expression is sometimes varied to *all skittles and beer.*

There's danger even when fish are caught
To those who a wetting fear;
For what's worth having must aye be bought,
And sport's like life, and life's like sport,
It ain't *all skittles and beer.*
—*Adam Lindsay Gordon's Poems.*

The word *skittles* itself has ceased to belong to slang phraseology. It may be interesting to remark that the game was originally nine pins; but the Blue Laws of Connecticut having forbidden that game, the astute sons of the Puritans added a pin, and made the game ten pins, or, as it is now called, "American bowls."

All brandy (popular), good, profitable, pleasant.

All bum (popular), a female with a large bustle.

All-fired (English and American), immoderate, violent. This common expression is thought in New England to be an euphemism for "hell-fired." Thus people talk of an "*all-fired* abuse," meaning a crying abuse; an "*all-fired* hurry," *i.e.*, in great haste.

I knows I be so *all-fired* jealous I can't bear to hear o' her talking, let alone writing to.—*T. Hughes: Tom Brown at Oxford.*

All fours, to be on (common), to be on good terms, to be exactly similar; probably of Masonic origin, and referring to the completeness and harmony of the four sides of a "square."

The cases [Bradlaugh *v.* Newdegate, Clarke *v.* Bradlaugh] are on *all fours.*—*Times.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

All gay (thieves), a term to denote that the coast is clear, a variant of "all serene," all right. French thieves use the expression "tout est franco" in the same sense.

Having selected one house, at which James Hawes reported to the fourth man that it was *all gay*, which the detective, who was in hiding in a garden, understood to mean that no one was at home, the four men joined together near it.—*The Globe.*

All-get-out (American), an old Yankee expression. "Oh, get out!" appears to have suggested it. This is uttered very often when any person announces or says something extravagant. Whence the saying, "That beats *all-get-out.*"

But hark! behold! to-morrer thou,
In deep revenge mayst dry thy tears,
I hev a plan which you'll allow
Beats *all-git-out* when it appears.
—*The Ballad of Tim Zion Boggs.*

All holiday at Peckham (popular) is said when there is nothing to eat. *All holiday* means no work, and *Peckham* is a play on "peck," food.

All hollow, hollow (old slang), completely, utterly. "I beat him *all hollow* at a race." Probably derived from *wholly.* All whole, or whole-and-all, *heel en al*, is a Dutch idiom; *heel-all*, the universe.

All in (racing) means that bets made on horses in the list are to stand whether the horse runs or not.

All in! (Stock Exchange), an expression used by men on 'Change when a market goes flat, and there is a general disposition to sell.

All in a pucker (common), in confusion; so hurriedly as to agitate and perplex. Women of the lower classes, especially when suddenly flustered and agitated, will declare themselves *all in a pucker*, and most frequently such a statement will be deemed sufficient qualification to justify a resort to the usual "pick-me-up."

All in fits (tailors). See PARALYTIC FIT.

All mouth (American), a man who is a great talker, and only a talker, is said to be *all mouth.*

When one Congressman assaults another he generally hits him in the *mouth*, that being about *all* there is to strike at.—*American Journal.*

All my eye (popular), nonsense, untrue. Some philologists have suggested—though they have not adopted—a derivation from the Welsh *al mi hivy*, it is very tedious, *i.e.*, it is all nonsense. It seems far more probable that it is a contraction of the phrase "there is as much of it as there is in *all my eye*," the words being made more forcible by closing one of the organs of vision. To express dissent from any statement, or a refusal to comply with a request, French slang has the corresponding term *mon œil!* which is usually accompanied by a knowing wink and

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

a significant gesture as an invitation to inspect the organ. *All my eye* is sometimes elongated into "*All my eye* and Betty Martin," which seems to have been the original phrase, and of which many explanations have been given. By many it is said to be a corruption of a Popish prayer to St. Martin, commencing with the words, "O mihi beate Martine!" which fell into discredit at the Reformation. Mr. T. Lewis O. Davies thinks that it arose from a gypsy woman in Shrewsbury, named Betty Martin, giving a black eye to a constable, who was chaffed by the boys accordingly. The expression must have been common in 1837, as Dickens gives one of the Brick-Lane testimonials as from "Betty Martin, widow, one child, one eye" ("Pickwick," ch. xxxiii.). Taking for granted that the expression originated from the beginning of a prayer (a theory which is now rejected by most etymologists), this would be but one of the many instances of a religious formula being distorted and ridiculed. Thus, the cant term "to patter flash," *i.e.*, to talk in cant, is from "to patter" (signifying to mumble), which itself is probably derived from paternoster. The French use *patenôtres* with the signification of mumbling, and *patenôtres de sinye* means muttering, grumbling; *un vobiscum*, from *dominus vobiscum*, in the mouth of French work-people, is a disparaging epithet for priest. The familiar *cagot*, *i.e.* religious hypocrite, was formerly a friar of a mendicant order. Then ears polite, on both sides of the Channel, are frequently offended by vulgar allusions to the Bulgarian heretics, though the expression has lost its former opprobrious meaning. Again, some etymologists derive the word "bigot" from the first words of a prayer "by God." "Un goddam" used to be synonymous with an Englishman, at the time when it was thought in France that all Britons had red hair, sold their wives at Smithfield, got drunk regularly after dinner (this may have been a fact at the time of three-bottle men), and always had a bull-dog with his nose at their heels. Bailey ascribes the origin of *hocus pocus*, used by quacks, to *hoc est corpus meum*, when this formula fell into ridicule with many others after the Reformation. It is curious to note that old-fashioned French charlatans still use the words *prêchi-prêcha* as an opening to their *boniment* or puffing speech.

All nations (obsolete), a coat or garment of different patches; a woman with many colours in her dress. A glass of *all nations* was supplied at the dram shops, and consisted of the mixed drippings of the spirit taps and drops of spirits left in

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the measures and glasses. In America this is called "all sorts." It is generally mixed with cayenne pepper. In London "all sorts" is a rapidly intoxicating compound.

Allo (pidgin English), all, every. *O* is added to many words in pidgin in an arbitrary manner. "*Allo* man talkee my so fashion" —"Every man talks to me thus."

Slang-Whang when makee noise,
Wit 'he pigtail floggee *allo* boys,
Allo this pidgin long tim 'go,
What tim good olo Empelor Slo.
—*Slang-Whang.*

All of a hough (tailors), very rough, twisted, or slovenly.

All of my lone (American), all alone.

All on the go (vulgarism), gone, done away with.

Then his supper—so nice!—that had cost him such pains—
Such a hard day's work—now *all on the go!*
'Twas beyond a joke, and enough to provoke
The mildest and best-temper'd fiend below!
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

All out (popular), much, by far; "*all out* the best," by far the best. To be *all out*, to be quite wrong. (Turf), one who has been unsuccessful during a day's racing is said to be *all out*. (Stock Exchange), *all out!* an expression to denote that the market improves, and that there is a general disposition to buy.

All out (athletic), where a runner or walker has done his utmost, and has not a yard up his sleeve.

All-overish (vulgarism), a sensation as of illness, chills, shuddering pleasure, or "the creeps" from head to foot.

It made me feel *all-overish* to hear him talk so!

Susan kissed me one, two, three times—
I swan it made me feel *all-overish* with plum-goodness.
—*An Honest Boy.*

All over the shop (common), all over the place; refers also to an obtrusive and exaggerated performance which asserts itself in an offensive manner. In retail traders' slang it signifies a widely spread movement of any kind, a general scramble, disturbance, or agitation. (Tailors), used of a person or thing taking up too much room.

Allow (American), to admit, to declare, to intimate that a thing must be done. This word is quaintly used by rustics in different states to express thought, or opinion on its utterance; to give. "All the people in the room *allowed* that his conduct was perfectly shameful." "He *allowed* he'd give me a new trunk if I'd *allow* him my arm-chair." (Harrow), *allow*, a boy's weekly allowance of pocket-money.

Allowances (tailors), *allowances* for making up a garment, *i.e.*, for seams, padding, wadding, buttoning, and respiration.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

All plopa (pidgin), quite right.

Olo Howqua, he talkee. My wife she velly 'culis 'bout pearlee (is very curious or pecu'iar as to pearls), she likee one kind pearlee, no other chop (quality) can do; she likee pearlee numpa one lound, he whitey colour. Look, see *all plopa*, allo samee that he Empelor hab got top side he hat. Supposey pearley blongy so fashion, my wifee too much likee, golaw.—*Howqua and the Pearls.*

All round (common), a phrase applied to a thing or person thoroughly adapted to its or his purpose, and signifies in its restricted sense complete and perfect, as "an *all round* man of business," "an *all round* lawyer," "an *all round* sportsman," "an *all round* gentleman or lady," or even an "*all round* scoundrel or thief" (in America an "*all round* crook.") An *all round* man is one who can turn his hand to anything, or a clerk who can undertake all the departments in his business.

A much graver question is raised by the strongly expressed opinion of so many witnesses, that the foreigner is at present a better *all round* man.—*The Times.*

Mr. Cox in the small part of Coquelicot is quite himself as a thoroughly *all round* actor—at all events in appearance. —*Punch.*

An *all round* player at billiards is one who goes in for any kind of stroke, in contradistinction to a player who plays exclusively the spot stroke.

It was very evident that the sympathies of the audience were with the *all round* player rather than with the spot performer. The one was all grace and variety. The other, with plenty of grace, was playing a game which invariably became monotonous after a while. There is no doubt that, nowadays, the British public cares little for billiard exhibitions in which the staple is a continuous succession of spot strokes. —*The Star.*

An *all round* cannon is said of a cannon stroke effected by touching the cushions in succession with one's ball before striking another.

All-rounder (common). A shirt collar meeting in front, thus covering the throat, was very fashionable a short time ago, and no "masher" would be seen without one reaching up to his ears.

All round my hat (popular), "I feel *all round my hat*," I feel queer, do not feel very well. "That's *all round my hat*" is synonymous with "that's all gammon," or nonsense. From a song which was very popular in 1834.

Alls (popular), tap droppings, or inferior spirits, sold cheap; (workmen's), goods and chattels, or, perhaps, more properly, tools. "Come, pack up your *alls* and be off," is a common form of dismissal to a labourer or workman.

All-same (pidgin), a very common expression for "the same as," like, or equal.

Supposey you hearee plenty talkee 'bout fashion. Ch 'hoy! my tinkee China-woman, fankwei woman, állo woman, állo tinkey *állo same* inside her mouth. Wat tim you pay plenty dolla', he állo-tim good fashion.—*Howqua and the Pearls.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

All serene (popular), all safe, all right.

Who're you, sir?—oh, Mister So-and-so—all right—and this gentleman?—friend o' Mr. W.'s—oh, very well—yes, there's Barney—this a friend o' yours, Barney?—yes?—all right, then—yes, I think we're *all serene!—Bird o' Freedom.*

Some years ago the phrase was bawled in the streets, before such expressions as "How's your poor feet?" "Who's your hatter?" came into vogue. The Parisians at this time indulged in equally idiotic inquiries or calls, such as "Et tes pieds sont-ils à la sauce?" "Ohé Lambert! as-tu vu Lambert?" "Et ta sœur?" Of more recent creation is the stupid "On dirait du veau."

All smoke, gammon, and pickles (popular), all deceit, nonsense.

All sorts. (See ALL NATIONS.)

All sorts and conditions of men. The title of a novel by Walter Besant; and the heading of a well-known collect in the Prayer-Book. It has passed into such common and general use as to have become a truly "fixed popular phrase." (See ALL NATIONS.)

It was a rare mess, *all sorts and conditions of men*, women, and children, dogs and cats, promiscuously intermingled, and all on one grand kick-up.—*American Newspaper.*

All sorts of (American). Bartlett defines this as "expert, acute, excellent, capital." It is more accurately, as its name declares, "perfect, complete in every detail, having every quality." *All sorts of a horse* is a horse possessed of *every* merit, not one that is merely excellent or capital. *All sorts of a job* (E. A. Poe, cited by Bartlett) does not mean an expert, acute, or excellent undertaking, but one requiring all conceivable abilities. In this it corresponds to the German *allerlei* and Dutch *allerley.* "Hy is van *allerley* soort voorzien." *Allerley* is, in fact, translated *all sorts* by Sewel.

Allspice (popular), a grocer.

All's quiet on the Potomac! (American). This phrase originated during the Civil War, and has since been the refrain of a very popular song. It denotes quietude; a period of calm enjoyment. "Don't fret about things; they are going on swimmingly, for *all's quiet on the Potomac.*"

All T. H. (tailors), all right, or very good indeed (stock cutters).

All the caboose (common), everywhere. The *caboose* is the galley or cooking place of a ship, or simply a kitchen.

"The fact is he conquers us every one,
Does love, love, love!
We don't find it out till the mischief is done,
By love, love, love!
To fight against him is no manner of use,
A gander's a gander, a goose is a goose,
And Cupid's the king over all the *caboose.*
Oh! love, love, love!"

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

All the go (common), in demand, fashionable, meeting with a very ready sale.

Jerry Hawthorn was agreeable, and he and Corinthian Tom were soon in the midst of *Life in London*, and lost no time in calling on young Bob Logic, who was a gay spark like his father, and quite *au fait* with all the sprees of the metropolis. "Fashions have changed, my dear Coz," said the Corinthian, "and the young bucks and exquisites seem to us to dress strangely; but I suppose their attire is *all the go* now, and these are the swell suits made by the Dickey Primefit of the day."—*Punch.*

It is also used in America.

A gentleman entered a Chicago gun-store and asked to be shown some revolvers. "Here is a nice family weapon," said the clerk. "Family weapon?" "Yes, a family weapon. Just the thing for domestic tragedies. It has six chambers, sir, two bullets for your faithless wife, two for the ruthless destroyer of your home, and two for yourself. They are *all the go* now."—*Texas Siftings.*

Fine stock is getting to be *all the go* in that line here now, and there is some as fine here as can be found anywhere.—*Carlisle Correspondence.*

All there (general), extensively used with the signification of first-rate, up to the mark. A good player at any game is said to be *all there;* the same is said of a pretty, well-dressed woman. A smart officer also is *all there.* It likewise means to be in one's element.

The band and the 'opping was prime, though, and 'Arry in course was *all there,*
I'd several turns with a snappy young party with stror-coloured 'air;
Her name she informed me was Polly, and wen, in my 'appiest style,
I sez, "Polly is nicer than Politics!" didn't she colour and smile!
—*Punch.*

All the shoot (popular), the whole assembly, all the party. "Every man-jack of them."

The Prince of Wales in a bricklayer's suit,
I could scarcely believe my eyes.
Helping to build the Royal Institute!
At a penny an hour less than *all the shoot.*
Oh! what a surprise!
—*Oh! what a Surprise!* Broadside Ballad.

All the way down, or simply **all the way** (common slang, probably American), entirely (*cf.* "down to the ground"). It implies probably from top to bottom. A common phrase is "that will suit me *all the way down,*" or *all the way.*

All to his own cheek (tailors) signifies all to himself.

All to pieces (common), utterly, excessively. To beat one *all to pieces* is to surpass one altogether. The term is also used by boating men. A crew are said to have fallen *all to pieces* when they are exhausted and the rowing is wild.

All up (general), a synonym for "all over," signifies that the end has come to any one, that all is over with him. "All to smash" is another phrase of a similar meaning, applied to a person whose affairs are irretrievably involved, who is utterly bankrupt in fortune. Thus one hears that "So-and-so has gone all to smash," *i.e.*, his credit is gone. Plans, and indeed anything, may

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

go "all to smash." A similar expression is popular among the lower classes in Belgium and Holland, and among children *alle op* signifies that everything is gone—all is over. An odd variety of this slang is sometimes heard in the United States. Mr. Bartlett records that it is a common expression among servants in Pennsylvania to say, "all any more," instead of "all gone" or *all's up.*

All wag blue (American), a jolly time, a frolic, a jamboree.—*MS. Americanisms, by C. Leland Harrison.*

> 'Tis merry in hall
> When beards *wag all.*
> —*Shakspeare.*

Ally-beg, a bed. This very ancient and nearly obsolete cant word was expressive of the pleasure found by the vagabond classes in the unusual luxury of a warm and comfortable resting-place for the night. People who slept in a nook in a wall, under a bush or a hedge, or the chance shelter of a barn or outhouse, spoke of a bed as *aille,* pleasant, agreeable, and *beg,* little, *i.e.,* a little place or harbour of pleasantness. *Leab* is Gaelic for a bed, and *leab-beg,* a little bed; and *leabker* or *lybker,* a house with beds in it, a lodging-house for travellers.

Almighty smash (American) The adjective is used in an infinite variety of ways, and Lord Lytton in a certain measure acclimatised it on this side of the water. For example, he speaks in the following quotations of *almighty smash* (that is, a state of complete demolition); of "driving into almighty shivers" (a state of entire collapse); and of "almighty crack" (that is, without ceasing—a reference to the popular crack of doom). These phrases are thus illustrated from one of his best works—

"I wish you would mind the child—it is crumpling up and playing *almighty smash* with that flim-flam book, which cost me one pound one."

"As if that was not enough to destroy and drive into '*almighty* shivers,' a decent fair-play Britisher like myself."

"Let us cut short a yarn of talk which, when it comes to likings and dislikings, might last to '*almighty* crack.'"
—*My Novel.*

"The '*almighty* dollar,' that great object of universal devotion throughout our land, seems to have no genuine devotees in these peculiar villages."—*Washington Irving: Creole Village.*

Almyra, an Anglo-Indian word for a chest of drawers, derived from the Hindustani *almāri,* and the Portugese *almario.* Old English, *ambry,* a cupboard, niche; Italian, *armadio;* Latin, *armaria.*

Alsatia (common), synonymous with low quarter. The higher *Alsatia* was a sanctuary in White Friars, where people were formerly free from arrest for debt. The lower *Alsatia* was also a sanctuary of the same descrip-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

tion, and was situated in the Mint in Southwark.

And for this ruin the gambling-house is responsible. Huntley is but one of the thousands who are stripped annually of all they possess in this modern *Alsatia*. Not only of their money, but of their health and of their happiness.—*T. Greenwood: A Gambling Hell.*

Whitefriars, adjacent to the Temple, then well known by the cant name of *Alsatia*, had at this time, and for nearly a century afterwards, the privilege of a sanctuary, unless against the writ of the Lord Chief-Justice. . . . The place abounded with desperadoes of every description—bankrupt citizens, ruined gamesters, irreclaimable prodigals, &c. &c.—*Scott: Fortunes of Nigel.*

The haunt of gladiators and prize-fighters—of the vicious and penniless—of the savage and the obscene—the *Alsatia* of an ancient city.—*Lord Lytton: The Last Days of Pompeii.*

Alsatian (old), a rogue, such as lived in Alsatia or Whitefriars.

He spurr'd to London, and left a thousand curses behind him. There he struck up with sharpers, scourers, and *Alsatians.—Gentleman Instructed.*

Altemal (American thieves' slang), altogether; the sum total of a story or bill; cut it short. From the Dutch *altemal*, altogether.

What was the *altemal?* It only raised fifteen cases. The dummy raked a case and a half, and the thimble was a first, but the slang and onions were bene.—*On the Trail.*

In olden days the phrase was specially applied to the accounts rendered to the frequenters of brothels, such being given without details—a practice which allowed of gross overcharges without any possible means of verification.

Altering the jeff's click (tailors), making up a garment without reference to the cutter's chalk lines or style.

Altham (old cant), a "curtall's" wife. A curtall was a second in command in the fraternity of vagabonds.

Altitude (obsolete), a drunken man was said to be "out of his *altitude.*"

Amah (Anglo-Indian), a wet-nurse. Portuguese *ama*, German *amme*, a nurse.

A sort of good-natured housekeeper-like bodies, who talk only of ayahs and *amahs*, and bad nights and babies, and the advantages of Hodgson's ale while they are nursing; seeming, in short, devoted to suckling fools and chronicling small beer.—*Letter from Madras, Yule and Burnell's Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

In pidgin English it has the same signification:—

My look-see, one *amah*, t'at *amah* has got one piecee littee *fankwei* chilo, wat look-see allo-same one Japanee *nitchky*. I askee *amah*, "How much you sellum my that one piecee culio?"—*The Saucy Sayings of Wan-Tong.*

Amandi, mende, men (gypsy), we; *amendi, a men dui*, we two. "Jāsa tu sar amandi, mān se trashno"—"Come with us; don't be afraid."

Ambassador (nautical), a practical joke performed on board ship by Jack Tars in warm latitudes,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the victim being ducked in the wash-deck tub, and subjected to other indignities (*Admiral Smyth*). Sailors of other nations indulge in similar jokes when crossing the equator.

Ambia or **ambeer** (American), a euphemism for salivated tobacco juice, the result of chewing. Bartlett says, "The word is a corruption of *amber*, to which it bears a slight resemblance in colour, manifesting certainly a delicacy of expression which borders upon the poetical."

The word *ambia*, as generally used at Princeton, which largely represents the solid South, is not applied to saliva, but to the intensely strong nicotine, or thick brown substance which forms in pipes. I have always supposed that it is merely a Southern variation of *amber*, which exactly represents its colour.—*Notes by C. G. Leland.*

Ambidexter (obsolete), a barrister who acts as a counsel for both parties. Also a blackleg who shares with both parties at the gaming-table, or on the race-course.

Ambush (American), a nickname for the scales used by grocers, coal-dealers, &c. So called because they are always "lying in weight."

Ameen (Anglo-Indian), an Arabic word *amin*, meaning a trustworthy person, but applied by the English in India to several kinds of native officials, nearly all reducible to the definition of *fide commissarius*. It is also applied to native assistants in land surveying. — *Yule and Burnell: Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Bengalee dewans, once pure, are converted into demons; *ameens*, once harmless, become tigers.—*Peterson, Speech in the Nie Durpan case, ibid.*

Ameer (Anglo-Indian), originally an Arab word *amin*, root *amr*, signifying commanding or a commander, is used in the East in a very general way for dignitaries and magnates.

Amen (gypsy), among.

Amen a shel o' Gorgios,
Jinas len Romany;
(Among a hundred Gorgios,
You'd know the Romany.)
—*O. Patteran.*

Amen chapel (Winchester), a service on "Com. and Ob." (which see), when the responses are chaunted to the organ, and instead of the ordinary psalms and first lesson, Psalms 145, 146, and 147, and Eccles. are used.

Amen curler (old), a parish clerk, from the response so frequently made use of by him.

Amen wallah (military), the chaplain's clerk, who makes the responses in the garrison or other church. The suffix *wallah* is the well-known Hindustani word signifying man or person, and is one of innumerable instances of the adoption in our army of Hindustani terms,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

due to the lengthened occupation of India by British troops.

Amener (old), a regular *amener*, one who says yes to everything.

Amerace (American thieves' slang), very near, within call.

Americanesses (American). This version of Américaine has begun to appear in Western newspapers.

TALENTED "AMERICANESSES" ABROAD.—Miss Anna E. Klumpke, who has been studying for many years under the best Paris masters, can now be ranked among the first American portrait artists. She received an "Honourable Mention" in last year's Salon for her portrait of her sister, Dr. Klumpke, whose appointment to be house surgeon in the Paris hospitals created no little sensation a year ago in French medical circles. Miss Klumpke, the artist, is now in the South of France finishing a portrait of Miss Elizabeth Cady Stanton.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Americanising (American). "*Americanising* a people," according to the Rev. J. S. Gubelman, "consists in teaching them the English language. After this come sundry minor virtues. He is not a true American who desecrates the Sabbath, who yields to intemperance, or treads down the laws."

American shoulders (tailors), shoulders cut broad and "built up," to give the wearer an appearance of massiveness about the shoulder.

American tweezers (thieves' slang), an instrument by means of which an hotel thief is enabled to open a door fastened with the key in the lock inside.

Ames all (old slang), within *ames all*, nearly, very near.

Aminadab (cant), a jeering name for a Quaker.

Ammunition leg (army), a wooden leg.

Ampersand (American, but of English origin), the seat or hinder part. In one of the Crockett almanacs a hunter speaks of a bear's *ampersand*. Derived from "and per se and," thus explained by Bartlett:—

"Two generations ago, when Irish schoolmasters were common at the South, this expression, equivalent to the & annexed to the alphabet (meaning & *per se and*, to distinguish it from &c.), was in frequent use."

As the *ampersand* came at the bottom of the alphabet, it came to be at length associated with the breech itself.

But he observed in apology, that it (z) was a letter you never wanted hardly, and he thought it had only been put there "to finish off th' alphabet, like, though *ampusend* (&) would ha' done as well," for what he could see.—*George Eliot: Adam Bede.*

A shrivelled, cadaverous, neglected piece of deformity, i' the shape of an ezard or an *empersi-and*, or in short anything.—*Charles Macklin: The Man of the World.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Ample form. Lodge opened by the Grand Master in person, "Due Form" by the deputy, "Form" by other mason or person. Also used colloquially for the "correct thing."

Amputate your timber, or your mahogany, to (common), to go away, run off. A variant of "cut your stick," as a person who cuts a walking-stick from a tree or hedge previous to starting on a journey.

A-muck (Anglo-Indian), from the Malay *amuk* or *amok*, to run furiously and desperately at any and every one, to make a furious onset. A word probably derived from the Malay, though there is some reason to ascribe an Indian origin to the term. Malayan scholars say it rarely occurs in any other than the verbal form *mengāmuk*, to make a furious assault. It has passed into general use, and is often applied to any one who sets himself up to defy popular opinions, or the multitude. The word was familiar to Englishmen two centuries ago.

Frontless and satire-proof he scours the streets,
And runs an Indian *muck* at all he meets.
—*Dryden: The Hind and the Panther*, A.D. 1687.

Satire's my weapon, but I'm too discreet
To run *a-muck*, and tilt at all I meet.
—*Pope: Imitation of Horace*, A.D. 1727—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

To run *amock* is to get drunk with opium . . . to sally forth from the house, kill the person or persons supposed to have injured the *amock*, and any other person that attempts to impede his passage.—*Cook's Voyage.*

Amusers (English and American), thieves, who formerly used to throw snuff or pepper in a victim's eyes, while an accomplice robbed him, under pretext of rendering assistance.

Anabaptist (obsolete), a thief, caught in the act, and doused in the horse trough or pond.

Analken (tinker), to wash.

Analt (tinker), to sweep, to broom.

Anāva, Anner (gypsy). In the common dialect *ánner* or *hanner*, to bring, fetch, carry.

"If tute 'll *anner* a truslo levinor mandy 'll pessur lis"—"If you will bring a quart of ale, I'll pay for it."

Anchor (nautical). "Bring yourself to an *anchor*," a common phrase, which signifies "sit down."

"Hullo, Pet! . . . *bring yourself to an anchor*, my man." The Pet accordingly anchored himself by dropping on to the edge of a chair.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

"To let go an *anchor* to the windward of the law," to keep just within the letter of the law. Sailors use the expression "to heave *anchor*," meaning to go away.

And yet, my boys, would you believe me?
I returned with no rhino from sea;
Mistress Polly would never receive me,
So again I heav'd *anchor*—yo, yea!
—*C. Dibdin: The Good Ship the Kitty.*

Anchorage (popular), a place of abode. The term explaining itself.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Ancient mariners (Oxford University slang), rowing "dons" at Oxford. A crew of dons (*vide* Dons) are always called *ancient mariners.*

And he didn't (tailors), often used to express the belief that a person has really done something discreditable in spite of the attempt to prove his innocence.

And no mogue (tailors), and no mistake, joking apart. Sometimes it is used as an interrogation, and at other times to express disbelief; for instance, a man may be relating some incredible story, and an auditor will convey a world of meaning by quietly remarking, but with peculiar emphasis, *and no mogue.*

And no whistle (tailors). This remark means, no one seems to think that what you have said applies to yourself, but I do.

Andrew Miller (nautical), a man-o'-war; *Andrew Miller's lugger*, a vessel of the royal navy, is smugglers' slang taken out to Australia by the convicts, and is used by accomplices in warning the smugglers of the approach of revenue cutters, &c.

Anerjāl (gypsy), over against, *vis-à-vis. Munǧwé* is also an obsolete term for the same.

> An ríkkerdas stardy *anerjāl*,
> To akovo kālo Romany chál.
> —*O. Delaben.*

Angelicas (popular), young unmarried women.

Angeliferous (American), a word signifying "angelic," and first used by Bird in his novel of "Nick of the Woods," in which roaring Ralph Stackpole frequently calls the heroine "*angeliferous* Madam!"

> Heaven, my hyarers, is all sorts of a glorious, beautiful, *angeliferous* place. Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, it hath not entered into the heart of any cracker round in these hyar diggins to conceive what carryins-on the jest-made-perfect hev up thar.—*A Hard-West Sermon.*

Angels altogether (West Indian), a sobriquet applied to those who habitually give way to excessive drinking.

Angel's footstool (nautical), an imaginary sail jokingly assumed to be carried by Yankee vessels. It is said to be a square sail, and to top the "sky sails," "moon sails," "cloud cleaners," &c.—*W. Clark Russell: Sailors' Language.*

Angel's gear (nautical), a graceful term used by gallant tars to denote female attire.

Angel suit (tailors), vest and jacket combined, and the trousers made to button to the bottom of the jacket. It is now a thing of the past.

Angel's whisper (military), the bugle or trumpet call for defaulters' drill. It sounds from three to four times a day, and the expression is undoubtedly euphemistic; like the favourite

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

expletive of the sea captain, who, when reproving his crew, said: "Bless you, my lads; bless you! You know what I mean."

Anglaterra, Anghiaterra (gypsy), England.

Angled (billiards), an *angled* ball is one that is so near the edge of the pocket, that a player is prevented from playing at any other ball direct.

Anglers or **hookers** (thieves), petty thieves, who steal goods by means of a stick with a hook at the end.

Suffer none, from far or near,
With their rights to interfere;
No strange Abram, ruffler crack,
Hooker of another pack,
Rogue, or rascal, frater, maunderer,
Irish toyle, or other wanderer;
No dimber-damber, *angler*, dancer.
—*Ainsworth: Oath of the Canting Crew.*

Modern French thieves call this mode of purloining "grinchissage au boulon," from the circumstance that the hook is inserted through a bolt-hole in the shutters. *Angler* is a very old slang term (nearly obsolete) for an adventurer or catch-penny. It may be found used in Breton's "Wit's Trenchmen" (159) in this sense. It is now also applied to rogues, who at races and country fairs entice the unwary to try their luck at the thimblerig, prick in the garter, three-trick-card, &c.

Anglomaniacs (American), another name for Bostonians as being ultra-English. There is a club at Boston called the *Anglomaniacs.*

Angry boys. Slang of the early part of the seventeenth century, to designate the noisy and riotous young men or "bloods," who in drunken or semi-drunken frolics made nocturnal disturbances in the streets, and committed outrages on unoffending passengers. A century later these public nuisances were called Mohawks.

I have heard some speech
Of the *angry boys*, and seen 'em take tobacco.
—*Ben Jonson: The Alchemist.*

Get thee another nose that will be pull'd
Off by the *angry boys* for thy conversion.
—*Beaumont and Fletcher: The Scornful Lady.*

Angular party (common), a party composed of three, five, or seven persons.

Angustrin (gypsy), a finger, a ring, corrupted to *wongashy.* It also means only a finger's-breadth, or a very little, in any sense. Hence *wóngish*, a little, a short time. "'Hatch a wongish, besh a wongish akai for me,' pende lāki "—"'Stop a little, wait a little here for me,' she said.".

Animal, to go the whole (American), in common use in the West. It is a mere, though more popular variant of the

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

English "to go the whole hog," and means the same.

That they had much better pay first-class, and *go the entire animal.—Sala: Twice Round the Clock.*

Opposing all half measures, and preferring to *go the extreme animal.—Dickens: Nicholas Nickleby.*

Animals (American cadets), the cognomen by which new arrivals are known at the West Point Military Academy (see also "BEASTS"). The English have "snooker" and the French "melon" as equivalents. A new cadet who puts on extravagant airs and pretensions—a coxcomb or "puppy"—is called "a fast animal."

Ankair (gypsy), to begin.

"I ain't lelled kek religion,
An' I'll kek *ankair* kennā;
But if waver foki kāms lis
Mūkk lendy kair ajā."
—*E. H. Palmer.*

("I have taken (got) no religion, and I'll not begin now; but if other people like it, let them do so."

Ankle (common).

"She has sprained her *ankle*," she has had an illegitimate child. Also, "She has broken her leg." A somewhat similar expression is used in the French theatrical world; a lady who is *enceinte* is said to have a bad knee: "Elle a mal au genou."

Anna (Anglo-Indian). Hindi, *ānā* or *ānāh*, the sixteenth part of a rupee. The term is also applied colloquially to persons of mixed parentage. "Such an one has at least two *annas* of dark blood," or "of coffee colour." This may be compared with the Scotch expression that a person of deficient intellect "wants twopence in the shilling."—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

In the United States this slang is paralleled by the following expressions:—"He" or "she has a lick of the tar-brush." "He has a white stripe down the back," it being believed that mulattoes or quadroons have a line of light colour on the spine.

Annex (American), to steal. It became popular in 1835, at the time of the annexation of Texas, which was regarded by many as a theft.

Robert, "Prince" of the Yetholm gipsies, was recently charged with stealing a pair of spectacles. The "Prince" said that his eyes were in a very queer condition, and that he had no intention of *annexing* the spectacles, which he picked up quite by accident; but the beak remarked that bagging barnacles constituted a serious offence, and was a short-sighted policy for a man to pursue. As "Prince" Robert left the dock he promised faithfully to avoid the eyes of the law in future.—*Fun.*

Anodyne necklace (old), a halter. The hangman's noose was also called the "Tyburn tippet," a "horse's nightcap," a "hempen cravat."

Anog (American), an andiron. Bartlett derives this from *hand-dog*, Dutch *aan-hoog*, that which heightens or raises.

Anointed (Irish), is expressive of great rascality.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Anointing (popular), a sound beating, the effect taken for the cause.

Anonyma (obsolete), or *incognita*, a lady of the *demi-monde* or even *quart-de-monde*, corresponds to the French *cocotte*.

The carefully sealed envelopes containing letters from fair *anonymas.—Bulwer Lytton: Kenelm Chillingly.*

The late Mr. H. J. Byron, the playwright and actor, in some MSS. annotations to a copy of the "Slang Dictionary," now in the British Museum, says, writing in November 1868, that "Miss ——, said to have been the real *Anonyma*, died at Paris about that time." Other synonyms are "pretty horse-breaker," "demi-rep," and the more modern "tart," which, however, is used also in the sense of woman, wife. The lower in the scale are—mot, common jack, bunter, bed-fagot, shake, bulker, gay woman, unfortunate, barrack-hack, dress lodger, &c.

Another acrobat (music hall), for another tumbler, *i.e.*, another glass of drink.

Another fellow's (popular), a slang phrase which, like most of its kind, owes its popularity to its almost indefinite power of application. Thus if a man remarks that he has a new coat, he is asked if it was *another fellow's*, or if the girl with whom he is in company is not the property of some one else.

Whenever you meet me, I've always a joke,
Another fellah's.
I love a good weed, so invariably smoke
Another fellah's.
Round into the Cri. every evening I slip,
And deep in the pale sparkling bitter I dip,
And when I've no money I generally sip
Another fellah's.
Not mine, nor yours,
Not his, nor hers,
No, no—*another fellah's.*
—*Another Fellah's Ballad.*

Another guess sort of man (old). The expression is invariably applied to one who is knowing and "fly," or not the man you take him to be. It has a close resemblance both in sound and meaning to the Yiddish "chess." This may be a mere coincidence, but it is certainly of English origin.

He has been a student in the temple these three years; *another guess sort of man*, I assure you.—*Tom D'Urfey: Madame Tickle*, 1682.

Another lie nailed to the counter (American), a very common expression in American newspapers in reference to detected slanders, &c. It was usual in olden times to nail "Bungtown (*i.e.*, Birmingham) coppers," and all kinds of counterfeit or worthless coins, to the counters of the country "stores" or shops. This is mentioned in the "Jack Downing Letters."

"If there is any truth," exclaims the excited editor of a North Carolina paper, "in the story that one of the Chicago Anarchists is employing his time in jail in the perfecting of an invention by which a clarionet, equal in tone to the best in the market, can be made of tin and sold for fifteen cents, the man ought to be hanged

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

at once." Rest easy, brother. None of the condemned Anarchists is fond enough of work to spend his time in such a manner. The story has doubtless been circulated for political effect. *Another lie nailed.—Chicago Tribune.*

Antagonise (sporting), to act as an opponent.

Dingley Dell sent Jones and Brown to the wickets, where they were *antagonised* with the leather by Alf and the Young Phenomenon. Alf threw up a maiden.—*The Saturday Review.*

Anthony cuffins (old), knock-kneed.

Anthony or **tantony pig** (old), the favourite or smallest pig in the litter. To follow like St. Anthony's pig meant to follow close at one's heels. St. Anthony the hermit was a swine-herd, and is always represented with his bell and pig.

Antimony (printer's), type.

Anty-up (Australian and American), a game of cards.

As they ride up, a savage-looking half-bred bull dog yelps hoarsely, and two or three men creep out from underneath the tarpaulin of the nearest dray, where they have been playing *anty-up* (a favourite game with cards) for tobacco. John recognises a teamster who has been employed by himself.—*D. Sladen.*

From *ante*, the stake with which the dealer at poker commences each hand before dealing the cards; he puts up a "chip" in front of him, hence the name. *Make good the ante;* the dealer, after looking at his hand, must either go out of the game and forfeit his *ante*, or must make it good by putting up a sum equal to it, so as to make his stake the same as that of the other players. *Raising the ante;* any one at the time of "chipping in" to fill his hand may raise the *ante*, and the other players must then in turn make their stakes equal to the maximum so raised, or else must "run" and abandon what they have already staked.

Anxious or **inquirers' meeting** (common, but of American origin), an after-meeting held during a "revival" for the benefit of those who profess "to be *anxious* for their soul's salvation." Those who during "revivals" profess anxiety for "salvation" are said to occupy "the *anxious* seat."

Anyhow you can fix it (American), however you may try, try as you may. "I don't see how you can convince me of that, *anyhow you can fix it.*"

Once on a drift log I tink I see an alligator,
Scull my boat roun' and chuck him sweet potater.
I hit him on de head an' try fur to wix it,
Couldn't fool him bad, *wouldn't nohow fix it.*
Den I up wid a brick,
An' I hit him such a lick!
An' 'twas nuffin but a pine log upon a big stick.
—*Gumbo Cuff, a Negro Ballad*, 1832.

Any other man (American). This phrase had a great "run" in 1860. If a man became prosaic,

or began to "discurse," and to use alternatives such as "Brown, *or* Jones, *or* Robinson," he was promptly called to order by the cry "or *any other man*." It was first made known in type by Charles G. Leland in a comic sketch in the New York *Vanity Fair*. It has since been discovered that in "Waverley" there is the expression "Gif any man or *any other man*."

Any racket (rhyming slang), a penny faggot.

Anything else, not doing (American), a strong affirmation generally in reply to a question as to what is or has been done by a third party. "Was So-and-so drunk," or "bad tempered," or "in good spirits?" "He didn't do or want *anything else*," would be the reply.

Anywhere down there (tailors), an expression which comes almost simultaneously from every man in the "shop" when anything is dropped on the floor. The words are peculiarly aggravating if it is a breakable article.

Apartments to let (popular), a term used in reference to one who is not over bright, whose head requires metaphorically some furniture to fill its empty rooms. The French have a kindred expression for a man who shows signs of becoming crazy, and say that he is removing his furniture, "*il déménage*."

It is related of the celebrated Richard Brinsley Sheridan that his son Thomas, who was a candidate for a seat in Parliament, jestingly declared to him that he had no decided political principles, that he was inclined to serve the party which would pay him best, and that he should put a placard on his forehead inscribed with the words, "To let." His father replied, "All right, Tom; but don't forget to add, 'unfurnished!'"

Ape, an "*ape*-leader" is an old maid. The expression occurs in "The Taming of the Shrew," and is still common. The punishment of old spinsters, it was said, was to lead *apes* in Hades; whereby two equally innocent beings—the maid and the *ape*—were equally but unjustly punished. It is probably an old superstition derived from the East. In India and China, certain evil-doers are supposed to carry about or lead in hell certain animals. (*Vide* Doolittle, "China.") "To say an *ape's* paternoster," is to chatter indistinctly, either from cold or excitement. The expression corresponds to the French "dire des patenôtres de singe."

Apes (Stock Exchange), a nickname for Atlantic first mortgage bonds.

If anything tickles our fancy,
We buy them "Brums," "Caleys," or "*Apes*."

—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

Apopli (gypsy), once more, again, yet again. *Kair lis apopli*, do it again; *anpāli*, back again, *lit.*, "or after."

Apostles (University, Cantab.). The "Gradus ad Cantabrigiam" says: "The *apostles* are the clodhoppers of literature, who have at last scrambled through the Senate House without being plucked, and have obtained the title of B.A. by a miracle. The last twelve names on the list of Bachelor of Arts—those a degree lower than the οἱ πολλοί—are thus designated." The *apostles* are so called because they are twelve in number. (Common) "to manœuvre the *apostles*," to borrow money from one person to pay another, an allusion to the expression, "Robbing Peter to pay Paul."

Apostle's Grove, St. John's Wood, also called "Grove of the Evangelist." Evilly disposed persons might remark that the place is saintly only in name, as in some parts it corresponds to the Rue Breda of Paris, where ladies of the *demi-monde* and even *quart-de-monde* dwell.

Apple-cart (popular), the human body. The term is in keeping with the "potato trap," which does duty in the slang vocabulary for mouth; the "bread basket," for stomach; "crumpet," for head, &c. To the imaginative powers of costermongers we probably owe the metaphor. One will say that his *apple-cart* is upset, meaning that he has been disappointed by the failure of his plans. (American) "To 'upset one's *apple-cart* and spill the peaches,' means to ruin any undertaking. The phrase was originally American, and had peculiarly this signification. Hotten's limitation of it to the human body was all conjecture and fancy."

Apple-dumpling shop (common), a fat woman's exposed breasts. The French argot, with more *galanterie*, terms the same "oranges sur l'étagère."

Apple-pie bed (general), is made by untucking the sheet at the bottom of the bed and doubling it up, so as to form a sort of bag half way down the bed and thus preventing the owner from stretching himself at full length. A common trick of mischievous boys and girls at boarding-schools and elsewhere.

Apple-pie day (Winchester college), the last Thursday in Long Half, when the "men" get their money and the scholars get *apple-pie*.

Apple-pie order (common), in regular order. "Order" is an old word for a row, and a properly made apple-pie had, of old, always an order, or row of regularly cut "turrets," or an exactly divided border. Pies are seldom made now in this

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

manner in England, but in rural America, especially in New England, they are still common.

I am just in the *order* which some folks —though why I am sure I can't tell you— would call *apple-pie.—Ingoldsby Legends.*

Apples and pears (rhyming slang), the stairs.

Application (Irish), name; a corruption and perversion of appellation.

I am not Aurora,
Or the beauteous Flora,
But a rural maiden to all men's view,
That's here condoling
My situation,
And my *application* is the Colleen Rue.
—Colleen Rue: Broadside.

Appro (trade), a contraction of approbation. "On *appro*," on sale for return. The term is used by tradesmen generally.

Appropriation (tailors), garments taken from old rejections and worked in for another "force," or the next "supply" for the same.

Apronstring-hold (old), an estate held by a man during his wife's life.

"There are many estates like leasehold, freehold, and copyhold, but a man least likes the *apronstring-hold.*"

Aqua pumpaginis (old), pump-water. Termed also "Adam's ale," and "fish broth," formerly, when people with weak stomachs did not make a virtue of necessity, and when the others only "pledged" themselves in bumpers of old Burgundy.

A-ratti, arāti (gypsy), by night.

"Oh mandy jins *arātti* to kister off a gry"—

"Oh I know how to ride a horse off by night."

Arch (popular), a boat.

I goes and sneaks a mikket and a lot of lines of a pal's *arch.—H. Evans: The Brighton Beach Loafer.*

Arch-cove (thieves), leader of mob or party.

Archdeacon (Oxford), the Merton strong ale.

Arch dell (old), the wife of a headman of vagrants. Termed also "arch doxy."

Arch-duke (American thieves), a funny fellow.

Arch-gonnof (American thieves), chief of a gang of thieves; termed "dimber damber," "upright man," in old English cant; and *archi-suppôt* in the old French argot. *Gonnof* is Yiddish for thief; Hebrew, *ganef.*

Ard (American thieves), hot; evidently from *ardent.* In old cant it had the signification of foot.

Area sneak (popular), one who sneaks into kitchens to steal. Other varieties of malefactors go by the appellations of "prig, cracksman, crossman, sneaks-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

man, moucher, hooker, flash-cove, bug-hunter, cross-cove, buz-faker, fogle-hunter, stook-hauler, toy-getter, tooler, prop-nailer, palmer, dragsman, buz-gloak, amuser, bob-sneak, bouncer, bully-prigger, thimble-twister, gun, conveyancer, dancer, pudding-snammer, ziff, drummer, knuck, buttock-and-file, poll-thief, little snakesman, millben, a cove on the cross, flash-man, finder, gleaner, picker, tax-collector," and formerly "a good fellow, a bridle-cull, a sampsman, an angler."—*Barrère's Argot and Slang.*

Argify (popular), a jargon corruption of to argue.

"The European league of Peace and Liberty have just held a congress at Geneva. The first sitting was very noisy. Most 'leagues' prefer liberty to peace, when it comes to *argifying*."

Do you want to *argify*, you little beggar. —*Leech's Cartoons.*

Argol-bargol. According to Hotten this is a Scotch phrase signifying "to bandy words." It is possible that it has a Hebrew derivation. *Bar-len* in Yiddish is, "to talk or speak in any way," and *bargolis* is one who goes about in misery and poverty, perhaps a fluent beggar. *Argol* is the popular pronunciation of *ergo*—as given by Dame Quickly—a word which of old was continually used in argumentative conversation.

Aristippus (old), a diet drink much in vogue in the latter part of the last century. It was made of sarsaparilla and other drugs, and sold at the coffee-houses.

Ark (thieves), a boat or vessel. (Military), a box in the barrack-room used for holding extra articles of a man's kit. In America a large boat used on rivers to transport produce to market.

It may be noted, that in the northern counties the large chests in farm-houses used for keeping meat or flour are called *arks*. Villon, the old French poet, in his Jargon Jobelin, terms *argue* a coffer or money-box, and in the modern French argot "aller à l'arche" means to go frequently to the money-box, to spend one's money freely.

Ark and dove (masonic), an American degree preparatory to the R.A.

Arkansas toothpick (American), a large bowie knife which shuts up into the handle. It is a piece of savage irony which thus dubs it, as the blade, which has a point of half its length, is over a foot long and two inches broad.

Straightway leaped the valiant Slingby,
Into armour of Seville,
With a strong *Arkansas toothpick*,
Screwed in every joint of steel.
—*Ben Gaultier: American Ballads, B.*

Ark floater (theatrical), an actor so loaded with years, that he is supposed, through some effort

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

of the imagination, to have made his début before the "floats," *i.e.*, the footlights in Noah's ark. People will say, "You must have come out of the *ark*," or "You were born in the *ark*;" because you are so old-fashioned, and ignorant of current events.

Ark-man (old), Thames boatman (Baumann).

Ark-ruff (old), fresh-water thief.

Armpits (old), petty larceny. The term has been imported into Australia by the convicts. Vaux, in his Memoirs, says: "*To work under the armpits*, is to practise only such kinds of depredation as will amount, upon conviction, to what the law terms single or petty larceny, the extent of punishment for which is transportation for seven years. By following this system a thief avoids the halter, which certainly is applied above the *armpits*." Watches are stolen by using the right hand under the *armpit* of the left arm, which is put across the breast.

Armstrong, Captain (turf), a dishonest jockey. "He came *Captain Armstrong*" is equivalent to saying that the rider *pulled* with a strong arm, thus preventing his horse from winning.

'Arry, for Harry, a familiar general term for a young costermonger dressed in his best clothes when taking a Sunday walk with his young woman. The corresponding word for the young woman is "Sarah Jane" or "Jemima." The *'Arries* are almost indigenous to London, are generally to be seen with short pipes in their mouths, and swarm at fairs and races and other places of public resort, talking slang and puffing tobacco smoke, and if not altogether of the same genus as the roughs and rowdies that infest great cities, are little removed from them in manners, appearance, and conversation.

'Arry smokes a two-penny smoke,
Oh! poor *'Arry!*
'Arry's pipe's enough to choke,
Bad boy, *'Arry!*
'Arry thinks it very good fun
To puff his cheap cigar
Into the faces of every one
While doing the la-di-da.
—*Ballad: How do, 'Arry?*

The female *'Arry* is sometimes called an "'Arriet."

As an inhabitant of Munster Square, I am quite content to gaze on the "green space," and should be very sorry to see it become the rendezvous of the *'Arries* and "'Arriets" of the neighbourhood.—*The Echo.*

Arse-board, the hinder part of a cart.

Arsy-varsy (old), topsy-turvy, heels over head.

"The old mare pitched him *arsy-varsy* into the ditch."

Artesian (Australian, popular), Colonial beer. People in Gippsland, Victoria, use *artesian* just as Tasmanians use *cascade*, in

the sense of "beer," because the one is manufactured from the celebrated *artesian* well at Sale, Gippsland, and the other from the *cascade* water.

Artful (popular), a word of wide application to intimate trickery, secrecy, and "dodges."

He'd an *artful* little bottle on an *artful* little shelf,
He was not "a little silly," but a very knowing elf.
—*H. Adams: Sister Hannah.*

Artful dodgers (thieves), lodgers; fellows who dare not sleep twice in the same place for fear of arrest.

Artichoke (American thieves), a low and old prostitute. It is curious to note that the French argot has the term *cœur d'artichaut* to denote a man or woman of a highly amatory disposition.

Paillasson, quoi! *cœur d'artichaut*,
C'est mon genre; un' feuille pour tout l' monde,
Au jour d'aujourd'hui j'gobe la blonde;
Après d' main, c'est la brun' qu'i m'faut.
—*Gill: La Muse à Bibi.*

Article (popular), a poor specimen of humanity; also, a wretched animal.

Articles (American thieves), a suit of clothes; termed in the English slang, "togs, toggery, clobber."

Articles of virtue (familiar) (*i.e.*, *vertu*), virgins.

Artistic. It is a common error to suppose that *artistic* is a synonym for beautiful, symmetrical, or attractive. That only is *artistic* which, being made by the hand of man, indicates direct individual character and touch. The more machinery intervenes between the original pattern and the mere copy, the less *art* is there. The Sistine Madonna is truly a work of *art*, the most perfect chromo-lithographic copy of it is not. As used by many tradesmen, to indicate their cast works, machine-sawed furniture, &c., the word *art* or *artistic* is mere slang.

Asā, asārla, asārlus (gypsy), thus, so, in this manner.

Ash path (running), a running path formed of pulverised cinders or black ash.

Ask bogy (old slang), an indecent evasive exclamation used by sailors when not wishing to answer any question.

Askew (old cant), this may be a corruption of *escuelle*.

Asking (turf), a jockey is said to "ask" or "call upon" a horse when rousing him to greater exertion.

Assay (American thieves' slang), commence, try it. From the expression to take the *assay* or *essay*, to taste wine to prove that it is not poisoned. Hence to try, to taste, trial or sample. Shakspeare uses the term.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(He) makes vow before his uncle, never more
To give the *assay* of arms against your majesty.
—*Hamlet.*

Asses (printers). *See* DONKEYS. Term used by pressmen for compositors, by way of retaliation in calling them "pigs." The animal creation has furnished a variety of slang terms for French printers in sufficient numbers to form a small menagerie. Thus a compositor is called "mulet;" a master or foreman, "singe;" a newspaper, "canard" (which also means false news); to have "one's monkey up," that is, to be angry, is "gober sa chèvre" or "son bœuf," from the effect produced by the horns of the animal in the metaphoric operation; a letter which has fallen from the form is termed "chien;" a creditor, "loup;" an idle workman who disturbs others, "ours." "Poser une sangsue" is to correct one's fellow-workman's work in his absence. The German typos say that one receives his "herring" when he gets dismissed from his employ.

Astern (common), behind, in the rear of; from the nautical term.

Asti (gypsy), would have, have to; *astis*, can, possible; *asti si*, it can be; *nasti nesti*, it is not possible, *i.e.*, it cannot be.

Astral body (theosophist), a phrase borrowed from the Rosicrucians, and used by Paracelsus and Van Helmont. It signifies a semi-spiritual self, which goes forth from the body.

Then there is *the astral body*, which is a nice thing to have, as it can be made responsible for all the doings of the carnal body, and can be pressed into service for any occasion when the latter would be of no account, even to the materialising of strawberries in January, or crockery at picnics when the necessary plates and cups have been forgotten. The only difficulty with *the astral body* is its unreliability. —*Chicago Tribune.*

Atch, hatch (gypsy), to remain, stay.

"Sa mandy *hatched* to kūr, my rye"—"So I stayed to fight, my master."

Atmosphere (American, Boston), a new slang phrase of society and literature thus explained by an American journal:—

"The cant of the day is the word *atmosphere*, which has displaced 'tone.' When people tried to be exquisite they spoke of the tone of a novel, a club, or a person. Now it is *atmosphere*. A city is said to have a peculiar *atmosphere* when its people and their customs seem peculiar to the observer. Such words are very convenient when people have nothing particular to say, and mean to say it impressively."

Atomy (popular), a small or deformed person. Varied sometimes to an "abortion."

Atrāsh (gypsy), afraid.

"An whenever the bavol pudered he was *atrāsh* he'd pel a-lay pré the shingerballas o' the gūro"—"And whenever the wind blew he was afraid he would fall down on the horns of the bull."—*The English Gypsies.*

At that (American), meaning something in addition to, an

intensive. Said to have originated in Pennsylvania, and to be a translation of the German *dazu*. "She is beautiful and rich *at that*," "She is old and ugly *at that*." It is also used upon a variety of occasions, without reason or necessity.

Now then, Mister, drinks all round, and cobblers *at that.—Notes on Canada.*

He's got a scolding wife, and an ugly one *at that.—Bartlett.*

The Mississippi's a mighty big drink—and a muddy one *at that.—Idem.*

The practice with one-half of the New Yorkers, of moving on the first of May, is an awful custom, and foolish *at that.—Major Downing.*

In Australia one talks of dear *at that*, weak *at that*, &c., some such word as "rate" or "price" being understood.

So we'll drain the flowing bowl,
'Twill not jeopardise the soul,
For it's only tea and weak *at that.*
—Keighly Goodchild: The Old Felt Hat.

Attic (popular), the human head, to be "queer in the *attic*," to be intoxicated or cracked. A somewhat similar term in the French slang is "grenier à sel." The synonyms are, "knowledge-box, tibby, costard, nob, nut, chump, upper storey, crumpet."

Attleborough (American), sham. Sham jewellery, from the town of Attleborough, in Massachusetts, where much imitation or trashy jewellery is made.

Attorney (thieves). The term is applied to a cunning fellow, or at least one who passes himself off as such; clever in getting round people, or *turning* difficulties (*attorney*, French *à tourner*); a loafer who pretends to a full knowledge of the legal meshes in which the light-fingered gentry are occasionally involved. The *attorney* is always ready to give advice in these and other matters for a small consideration in money, and failing that, for a glass of any kind of "tipple" at the nearest "pub." This distant relation to the great family of "limbs of the law" hangs about the favourite resorts of other kinds of "practitioners," *i.e.*, thieves. He is considered as a shining light by some, as an impostor by others, but whatever the case may be, he distinguishes himself from the real *attorney* by the low rate of his charges.

Attorney-General's devil (legal). This is a barrister, who, not being a Queen's Counsel, is appointed by the Attorney-General for the time being to be his "junior" in Government cases. He is always one of the best men at the junior bar, and as such is chosen by the Attorney-General.

Attory, venomous, from adder, a poisonous little serpent, originally spelt and pronounced *addery*. Chaucer in the "Person's Tale" speaks of *attry anger;* Anglo-Saxon *attor*, poison.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Auctioneer (popular), to tip him the *auctioneer*, is to knock a man off his legs. Derived from the saleroom phrase to knock down.

Audit (Winchester), the day on which the students receive their pocket-money, called also "apple-pie day."

Audit ale (Cambridge), very strong ale supposed to be drunk on audit day. It is peculiar to Trinity College. About two centuries ago, some ale was brewed for that college which was so strong and good that the recipe was preserved with care, and the ale has ever since been made every year in a limited quantity. Professors and undergraduates are allowed to purchase a certain number of bottles. This ale will burn like spirits when thrown into the fire.

The table was spread with coffee, *audit*, devils, omelets, hare-pies, and all the other articles of the buttery.—*Ouida: Held in Bondage.*

Audley or orderly (theatrical), a term used by theatrical showmen when they wish to abridge the performance, in consequence of there being a sufficient number of persons waiting to fill "another house." The manager or parade master will then call out, John Orderly!

Auger (American), a prosy fellow, a bore.

Aul. præ. (Winchester), an abbreviation which stands for *Præfectus Aulæ*, that is, Prefect of Hall.

Auly-auly (Winchester), a game played on "grass court" on Saturday afternoons after chapel. It is played by throwing a small cricket ball at your opponent.

Aunt. This term, as used in the phrase at "my *aunt's*," in a brothel, is obsolete. The old slang of the Elizabethan era, *aunt*, had the signification of a concubine, a prostitute, or a woman of loose morals, or, worse, a procuress. "Mine *aunt* will feed me," was a common phrase at one time, meaning an agent who would procure virgins for the purposes of debauchery. Shakspeare and Ben Jonson use the word.

The lark, that tirra-lirra chants,—
With, hey! with, hey! the thrush and the jay:—
Are summer songs for me and my *aunts*,
While we lie tumbling in the hay.
—*Shakspeare.*

The more modern expression for a concubine—who lives in a single man's house without either of them letting the world into the real secret of the connection — is "niece." Thus many reverend gentlemen in Catholic countries, whose vows of chastity debar them from enjoying the sweets of paternity, are fain to content themselves with being the uncles of pretty "nieces." A *curé's*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

niece is a standing joke in France. The sons of the Pope —if these high ecclesiastical dignitaries have any, as they had in ancient times far more frequently than in the present —are called "nephews."

To go to "my *aunt's*," to go to the privy. The expression is nowadays used chiefly by girls, who say among themselves, "I am going to my *aunt*," or "I am going to my *auntie*."

Australian flag, the (Anglo-Australian slang), the bottom of a shirt. The Australian who lives up the country generally wears a belt instead of braces, the result being that when he exerts himself, there is usually a great fold of shirt protruding between his small clothes and his waistcoat, which Englishmen have called in scorn *the Australian flag*. The Cornstalk talks of him as a "new chum;" he talks of the Cornstalk as "showing *the Australian flag*."

Australian grip (up-country Australian), a hearty shake of the hand (compare MASONIC GRIP.) The bushman shakes hands very heartily—a long grip with the whole hand, following three deep shakes. He does not crush your hand; but he is sarcastic about the "limp shakes" and "one-finger shakes" of people "newly out from home."

> None the less
> Was he a graceful, well-bred host,
> But he was hearty in accost,
> And giving the *Australian grip*
> And good up-country fellowship
> As bushmen.
> —*D. B. W. Sladen: A Summer Christmas.*

Autem or **autum**, a church. This word, which is of the oldest cant, and is given by Harman, is probably the Yiddish *a'thoumme*, a church (*tifle* being the common term), which in ordinary conversation would be pronounced *autem*. It seems to have been at first always associated with clerical marriage, and as in cant Adam and Eve are terms for husband and wife, it is possible that *Autem* also owes something to Outem or Oudem, as Adam is pronounced in Yiddish. *Thoumme* or *tume* really means the forbidden or impure (church). "A," or "ah," is the vulgar Yiddish pronunciation for "Ein." It is curious to note that in old French cant a church was termed *entonne* or *entifle*, *tifle* being Yiddish for church.

Autem bawler or **autem-jet** (old), a parson. The more modern slang has the epithets, "devil dodger," and "sky pilot."

> At last Job explained the cause of my appearance, viz., his wish to pacify Dawson's conscience by dressing up one of the pals, whom the sinner could not recognise, as an *autem bawler*, and so obtaining him the benefit of the clergy without endangering the gang by his confession.—*Bulwer Lytton: Pelham.*

Autem cackle tub (old), conventicle, or Dissenters' meeting-house.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Autem cacklers (old), Dissenters. It also means married women.

Oh! where will be the culls of the bing,
A hundred stretches hence?
The bene morts, who sweetly sing,
A hundred stretches hence?
The *autem-cacklers*, autem coves,
The jolly blade who wildly roves;
And where the cuffer, bruiser, blowen,
And all the cops and beaks so knowin',
A hundred stretches hence?
—*A Hundred Stretches Hence.*

Autem cove (thieves), a married man.

Autem dippers or **divers** (old), Anabaptists, from the custom of dipping or baptizing the converts.

Autem divers (old), church pick purses, and derisively, the churchwardens and overseers of the poor.

Autem goglers (old), pretended French prophets.

Autem jet (old), one of the innumerable equivalents for a parson. *Autem*, a church; *jet*, black, from the prevailing hue in a parson's dress.

Autem mort (old cant). A legal wife, whose marriage has been celebrated in a church. It does not apply to marriages celebrated by "hedge parsons" on the highway, as rendered memorable by the lines supposed to have been given to a pair of gypsy lovers by Dean Swift:—

"Beneath this tree in rainy weather,
I've joined this whore and thief together;
And none but *He* who wields the thunder
Shall part this whore and thief asunder."

The *autum-mort* finds better sport
In bowsing than in nigling,
This is bien bowse, this is bien bowse.
—*R. Brome: A Jovial Crew.*

Autem prickears (old), a general name for Dissenters. (See AUTEM CACKLERS.)

Autem quavers (old), Quakers.

Autem quaver tub (old), a Quakers' meeting-house.

Author baiting (theatrical), a sprightly pastime, invariably indulged in on the first night of an unsuccessful play. The process is as follows:—

"*First.*—Set your trap, and catch your *author*. In order to do so—call for him with spontaneity, and apparent enthusiasm.

"*Second.*—When you have caught him, that is, as soon as he puts his head before the curtain, go for him, shout, shriek, yell, bellow, hiss, emit a flood of 'obscure noises from filthy lips.'

"When you have degraded yourself to the level of the lowest standard of humanity, and when you have insulted the unfortunate dramatist by every means which your paucity of brains and plenitude of lungs can devise, your *author baiting* is complete."

Av (gypsy), come; *avakái*, come here. Full form *me avava*, I come. "If tute'll *av* akai mandy'll del tute a horra"—"If you'll come here, I'll give you a penny."

Av my little Romany chel,
Av along with mansar!
Av my little Romany chel,
Koshto si for mangue.
—*Borrow.*

Avails, profits or advantages, abbreviated into *vails*, is the gratui-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

ties given by visitors or guests in great houses to servants for civilities, attentions, or services rendered.

Avast (nautical), a sailor's phrase for stop, cease, stay. According to Webster a corruption of the Dutch *houd vast*, hold fast.

Some etymologists connect it with the old cant term "bynge a waste." Others ascribe its origin to the Italian *basta*, enough. This derivation seems plausible, from the circumstance that French workmen use *basta* with the same signification as English tars.

Avast heaving a minute, Tom, and we'll light our pipes and gather round and spin cuff; what do you say, lad?—*Rare Bits.*

"No satisfactory explanation of this term, which occurs in the oldest English canting," says C. G. Leland, "has ever been offered." In gypsy, *wast* or *vast* (Hindu, *hasta* or *hast*) means a hand, and, as in English, it is intimately connected with using the hands or being ready. *Chiv a vast adoi!* means exactly in Romany, "put a hand there!" "be alert!" It is equivalent to "lend a hand!" It will be readily understood that the injunction to lend a hand might easily become a synonym for "attend there!" "observe!" or "look out!" It is to be remarked that in modern English, gypsy *hatch a wongish!* means "stop a bit!" or, literally, "stop a thumb!" *Wongish* is a corrupted form of *angustrin*, a finger or thumb, and it seems to be a synonym for a bit or small piece, because a digit forms a smaller portion of the hand. "I'll not bate a finger's breadth of it." *Vast*, meaning a hand, appears to denote a greater extent or quantity, *e.g.*, "a hand's breadth better," and is sometimes confused with *vast*, meaning a great deal. An old Yorkshire song says—

"But Tom got the best of this bargain *avast*,
And came off wi' a Yorkshireman's triumph at last."

Wright gives *vast* as meaning a waste or deserted space. In the song the actual meaning is that the victor beat his antagonist not *vastly* but by a little, or "by a hand," *i.e.*, "barely," as the succeeding lines clearly prove:—

"For though between dead horses there's *not much* to choose,
Yet Tom's were the better by the hide and four shoes."

Avast in old cant has the signification of away.

Avast to the pad, let us bing.—*T. Middleton: Roaring Girle.*

Avering, the trick of a beggar boy who strips himself and goes naked into a town with a false story of his being cold and robbed of his clothes, to move compassion and get other clothes. This is called *averis* and to go

an *avering.—Old Manuscript in the Lansdowne Collection, quoted in Wright's "Archaic Dictionary."*

The word is evidently gypsy, from *aver*, to come or go, as further appears by *averis*, *is* or *os* being (as is common in Indian dialects) a suffix to form a noun (*vide* Av).

Āvo, āwo, auwo, āwali, avali (gypsy), yes. *Avali* is rare in England, but it may be commonly heard in Hungary.

Lel a chūmer del a chūmer
Avo, āvali!
Buti, buti, sār pa tūte,
Mīro kāmlo zi.

Take a kiss—give a kiss—yes—yes. Many and many, all for you, my dear heart.

—Janet Tuckey.

Avoirdupois lay (old), stealing brass weights off shop counters.

Awake (general), on one's guard, warned, put up to.

"A common expression of the 'family people;' thus a thief will say to his accomplice on perceiving that the person they are about to rob is aware of their intention and upon his guard, 'Stow it, the cove's *awake*.' To be *awake* to any scheme, deception, or design, means, generally, to see through or comprehend it."—*From Vaux's Memoirs.*

Awer (gypsy), but. This recalls the German *aber*, but it is probably only a form of the affirmative *awo*.

Awful. This word does duty in fashionable slang for "very." Girls and women are no longer "very pretty" or "very handsome," but "*awfully* pretty" or "*awfully* handsome." The expression is sometimes varied into "dreadfully." An *awful* shame or pity, or a *dreadful* shame or pity, are common expressions both among the high and low vulgar. "An *awfully* fine day" is a favourite expletive among young and old, but especially among the young. All these, and countless other perversions of the word, might fitly be described as *awfully* destructive of the grace, elegance, and purity of the English language. In like manner *very* laughable farces are declared to be *screamingly* funny or *excruciatingly* funny; as if very were no longer an English word.

"The lumberer very rarely mixes in polite society, but when he does he never fails to make his mark. Only a few weeks ago he was introduced to ——, and that effusive young lady was quite charmed with him.

"'I think him *awfully* nice,' she said; 'I am quite taken with him.'

"And so were they all, until a subsequent examination of the sideboard disclosed the fact that a considerable portion of the plate had likewise been taken with him."

The Philadelphia Press quotes "a charming old lady's advice to girls—very excellent advice indeed, to the sweet-faced damsels who are making their first bows to society this winter. Firstly, what to avoid:

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"A loud, weak, affected, whining, harsh, or shrill tone of voice.

"Extravagances in conversation—such phrases as '*awfully* this,' 'beastly that,' 'loads of time,' 'don't you know,' 'hate' for 'dislike,' &c.

"Sudden exclamation of annoyance, surprise, and joy—often dangerously approaching to female swearing—as 'bother!' 'gracious!' 'how jolly!'"

Awkward squad (military and nautical), a squad formed of the men who are backward in drill instruction. The French have the corresponding term, "Le peloton des maladroits."

Axe to grind, an (American, political), said when a man who has some pet scheme or hobby of his own in view, supports another who may in the future be useful to him. Such men are said to have *axes to grind.*

Special legislation in behalf of private interests is one of the curses of this country, otherwise so blessed by the smiles of Divine Providence. The number of *axes* which are taken to the various State Capitols, to be ground at the public expense, is perfectly enormous.—*New York Tribune.*

The phrase is derived from a story told by Benjamin Franklin in his life. Once when he was a boy, a man who wanted to grind an axe persuaded little Benjamin by flattery to turn the stone till he was utterly weary and his hands were sore, and then when it was done, told him rudely to be off. After this, whenever anybody was extremely amiable, the great American philosopher speculated whether the polite person had not *an axe to grind.*

Ayah (Anglo-Indian), a Hindoo nurse or lady's attendant. From the Portuguese *aia*, a nurse.

Ayrshires (Stock Exchange), is used to describe Glasgow and South-Western Railway stock.

B

B (Fenian). In the Fenian vocabulary this letter stands for a captain.

Bā (gypsy), brother, friend. This resembles the north-country *bor*, but is of Hindu origin.

Babblers (sport), ill-bred hounds; when the pack is questing the *babblers* frequently open without cause.

Babelo-dye, babalo-dye (gypsy), grandmother.

Babes (trade), the "small fry" or lower orders of "knock-out" men who are bought over by the larger dealers just previous to a sale coming off, and who for a few shillings retire altogether, or promise to make no biddings while the lot is held by any of the other party.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Baboo (Anglo-Indian), from the Bengali and Hindu *Bābū*, which is properly a term of respect, like Master or Mr. Its application in this sense is now confined to Lower Bengal, though C. P. Brown states that it is also used in Southern India for My Lord or Your Honour. In Bengal and elsewhere it is often used among Anglo-Indians with a slight savour of disparagement, as characterising a superficially cultivated but too often effeminate Bengali. From the extensive employment of the class to which the term was applied as a title, in the capacity of clerks in English offices, the word has come often to signify a native clerk who writes English.—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

But I'd sooner be robbed by a tall man who showed me a yard of steel,
Than be fleeced by a sneaking *Baboo* with a peon and badge at his heel.
—*Sir A. C. Lyall: The Old Pindaree.*

Baboo-English (Anglo-Indian). This term is applied to the peculiar English which is rather written than spoken by the natives in India. It is difficult to describe, not being specially ungrammatical or faulty as regards orthography, and yet it is the drollest dialect of English known. It is most humorous when the writer has made himself familiar with, let us say Shakspeare and the *Referee*, the Bible and the "Slang Dictionary," Artemus Ward, Milton, *Punch*, and the "Polite Letter Writer," and then contrives to happily unite all their characteristics with most unexceptionable gravity and skill. It is said that a converted Baboo, wishing to combine devotion with kindly feeling, ended a letter to an English lady-patron, to whom he supplied meat, with this expression: "Your affectionate butcher, in Christ." Of late years many amusing specimens of Baboo-English have been collected and published. There is a work called "The Baboo and Other Tales," by Augustus Prinsep.

Bābus, bawbus (gypsy), grandfather. "Māndy dikked yer *bābus* a chinnin koshters kāliko adré lestis tan"—"I saw your grandfather a cutting woods (making skewers) yesterday, in his tent."

Baby-herder (American cowboy slang), a nurse for an infant.

Baby-paps (thieves), rhyming slang for caps.

Bacca-pipe (popular), old-fashioned way of wearing whiskers. The *bacca-pipe* was the whisker curled in tiny ringlets.

Bach, to, batch, baching (American), from the word bachelor. To form a party and live without women's society or aid in the woods or by the sea-side. The expenses entailed on young men who mix with ladies in society at the watering-places

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

in America are great, and often out of all proportion to their means, the natural result being that bachelors take to the forests or sea-surf, and live in tents, enjoying themselves thoroughly without the aid of "the muslin," for half, or quarter the money which they must otherwise have expended on treating ladies to carriages, juleps and cobblers after bathing, billiards and ten pins, ball tickets and suppers.

Baching, a delightful Western amusement which pleases the doctors. Never *bach?* Well, it's a great scheme. Can have just what your appetite craves, and at a nominal price, and there is no woman around to find fault and comment upon the lay-out.—*California Newspaper.*

Back (general) to get one's *back* up, to get angry, the idea being taken from a cat, that always arches its *back* when irritated. "Don't get your *back* up," "Keep your hair on," "Don't lose your shirt," are synonymous expressions for an exhortation to keep one's temper.

Back block (Australian), the country outside the margin of the settled districts.

Like the brief flight of a sparrow upon a wintry night,
Out of the frost and and darkness into the warm and light,
Is the advent of a stranger in the *back blocks* out West,
Here to-night, and gone to-morrow, after food, roof, and rest.
—*D. B. W. Sladen: Out West in Queensland.*

These *back blocks* are, as a rule, grazing country, often very poor, let to the squatters (or graziers) in immense tracts at a nominal rent. One often hears of a man holding a thousand or two thousand square miles. Mr. Fisher, a South Australian, recently put upon the market, in the northern territory of South Australia, *blocks* to the aggregate of thirty or forty thousand square miles. In very remote parts. crown-lands are sometimes leased at sixpence a square mile. The two greatest difficulties to contend with (besides droughts and floods) are "getting up stores," and getting to market. Cattle are sometimes driven all the way from the Gulf of Carpentaria to Melbourne, the whole length of Australia, for sale, and some cattle which had come this journey had been six months and three weeks *en route.*

Back-breakers. According to the evidence taken before the Children's Employment Commission, the ganger who contracts to do the work hires the smallest and cheapest children, selecting the strongest and most willing of the gang as a *back-breaker*, whose duty it is to set an example of activity to the rest and "put them along."

Back-cheat (old cant), a cloak.

Back-cloth (theatrical), scenes in a theatre or music hall.

The *back-cloth* is the well-known "woodland glade" that Mr. de Pinna, the manager, invariably selects as the scene of these combats, and three rounds are fought under the Marquis of Queensberry rules. —*Evening News.*

Back-door work (popular), sodomy.

Backed (old slang), dead, with "one's toes turned up."

Back end (racing), the last two months of the racing season.

Lowestoft, though amongst the arrivals, shirked some of his engagements last *back end.—Star.*

A *back ender*, consequently, is a horse which appears on the racecourse at the end of the season.

Lord Bradford's horse evidently likes the Doncaster course, and he is undoubtedly a *back ender*. It must be for these reasons that he is so well backed, by the public be it understood, the stable rarely making any sign until the last moment.—*Sporting Times.*

Backers (a racing technical term), the general body of the betting public who wager *on* horses winning, in contradistinction to the more limited society of the "ring" or "bookmakers," who bet *against* horses.

This term is also frequently applied to coal carriers, whippers, or heavers.

Mr. Dudley Baxter, M.A., states in *National Income* that a coal *backer* is considered past work at forty.

Back-handed turn (Stock Exchange), having made an unprofitable bargain.

Backhanders (common), one who keeps *back* the decanter in order to *hand* himself a second glass before he passes it. Also, a drink out of turn.

Long experience has shown us that to get small advantages over us gives the Scotch so much pleasure that we should not think of grudging them the mild satisfaction, just as a kindly host affects not to notice a valued guest, who, he observes, always helps himself to an innocent *backhander.—The Saturday Review.*

Back handicap (running), the process of revising a time handicap, the time being reckoned from the second the "limit man" is sent off.

Back-house, or **backward** (common), a privy. So called from being usually situated at the rear of house. Soldiers also call it "the rear," from asking leave to fall to the rear of the company.

Backing or **turning-on** (American thieves' slang), a very usual kind of cheating, by which a man is victimised in such a manner as to render himself liable to punishment.

Back jump (thieves), a back window. The window seems to be considered by thieves only in the light of a convenient means of escape, hence the expression "jump."

Back mark (running), the mark nearest the scratch—sometimes, of course, the scratch itself. A

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

man is said to be "backmarked" in handicapping when the handicapper sets him back, or gives him less start than he has hitherto had.

Back of beyond, the (American), a mythical country where large fortunes are to be made—a Tom Tiddler's ground.

I sat down to my breakfast on the morning of the second day of April 188–, with no more notion that I should find myself at dinner-time that day at sea, bound on a voyage, the story of which I now propose to write, than I have, seeing that I am come in safety home again, of setting out before to-morrow to seek my fortune in the uttermost part of the mysterious country known as the *Back of Beyond.—W. A. Paton: Down the Islands.*

Back scuttle, to (thieves), to enter by the back way.

Back-seam (popular), to be down on one's *back-seam* is to be at one's last breath.

Back seats (American), a very common slang expression signifying reserve or an obscure and modest position. It originated in a saying of President Johnson in 1868, that "in the work of reconstruction traitors should take *back seats.*"

General Shelby of rebel notoriety says:—"Let it be distinctly understood at St. Louis and everywhere else that, while the issues of the war are past and forgotten, we take back nothing, and there is no use of their expecting us to do so."

That's true. You don't even take *back seats.* In the Cleveland variety show every man-jack of you is in the bald-headed row.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Backsheesh (Anglo-Indian). From the Persian *bakhshîsh*, a gratuity, a "tip."

What an honour to think that I am to be elevated to the throne, and to bring the seat in Parliament as *backsheesh* to the Sultan.—*Thackeray: Pendennis.*

Back slang (Australian convicts), the going stealthily to or into a place, sneaking into it. Probably taken out to Australia by the convicts transported thither, though it may have originated there.

(Thieves), to enter or come out of a house by the back door, or to go a circuitous or private way through the streets in order to avoid any particular place in the direct road, is termed *back-slanging* it.—*Vaux's Memoirs. Back slang* also means slang produced by spelling words backwards, *e.g.*, "nael ekom" for lean moke, "occabot" for tobacco.

Back-slanging is quite aristocratic up the country in Australia, where, unless it is a formal visit, it is almost the universal custom for any one of any rank to drive straight into the stables of the house he is going to, call for a groom (or quite as often a boy) to take the horses, and then walk round to the house.

Back slum (Australian convicts' slang), a back room, a back entrance. Probably taken out to Australia by the convicts transported thither.

In ordinary colloquial English, *back slum* simply means a

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"back street" or a "bad neighbourhood," but Vaux in his Memoirs says that among the Australian lays *back slum* is a back room, also the back entrance to any house or premises; thus, "We'll give it 'em on the *back slum*," means "We'll get in at the back door."

Back staircase (popular), a derisive term for a bustle, called by maid-servants "bird cage," or "canary cage." Parisian ladies had formerly the unassuming *polisson*, superseded under the Third Empire by the more "all round" crinoline, brought into fashion by the Empress, and which became so much the rage all the world over as to be worn even by African belles, whose sole adornment it frequently was. English girls of the lower classes, who could not afford to procure the "real article," would affix wooden hoops to their petticoats. Scoffing Parisians now term the modern "dress improver"—so elongated, painfully pointed, and almost horizontal—"un lieutenant" (a pun on "tenant lieu de ce qui manque") "nuage" ("parcequ'il cache la lune," *lune* being slang for the posterior), and "volapuk."

Backstairs influence (common), a disparaging term for occult, intriguing influence.

There is no rule of the service so strict that it will not yield to *backstairs*, or other influence.—*Truth*, April 26, 1888.

Back talk (popular), no *back talk*, *i.e.*, speaking frankly.

Back-tommy (tailors), a piece of cloth used to cover the stays at the waist.

Back-track (American); going back, retreating, eating one's words; to take the *back-track*, to recede from one's position.

The first law of self-preservation has admonished Mr. Douglas that he has gone as far in the slavery concessions to the South as he can possibly go, and that if he would save himself at home he must take the *back-track*.—*New York Herald*, December 26, 1857.

I turned to Mac and said, "Come, Mac, what's the use of fooling; come with me."

"No *back-tracks*, Texas. I'll stay here."—*R. Morley: The Western Avernus.*

Back up (public schools), to call out, as, for instance, when a præfect requires a fag.

Backy (tailors), the man working immediately behind the speaker. The term is much affected by "slop cutters."

Bacon (common), the body; "to save one's *bacon*," to escape a castigation; "to baste one's *bacon*," is to strike one; (theatrical), to "pull *bacon*."

The late Mr. H. J. Byron, the actor, very popular in his time, says this phrase has reference to a grimace which he used to make, and which was called pulling a *bacon* face, or, in short, pulling *bacon*, but the expression is not in general use.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Bad break (American), an outbreak, outrage, turbulent conduct.

"Sam," he says, "you've made one or two *bad breaks* since you've been in town." —*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Bad egg (popular), a rascal.

There is some philosophy in the remark that a man may be a *bad egg*, and yet not be a nuisance unless he gets broke.—*Sporting Times.*

But one gray-haired old veller shmiled crimly und bet
Dat Breitmann vould prove a *pad egg* for dem yet.
—*Ballads of Hans Breitmann.*

There was, however, a considerable feeling amongst others there that he was a *bad egg*, and they even went so far as to suggest that the sooner he had a bullet in him the better.—*A. Staveley Hill: From Home to Home.*

The term is used in America to express a man of unsound or doubtful character. It became popular about 1849–50. If the corresponding slang term existed in China, a *bad egg* would, on the contrary, mean a very honest fellow.

Badge coves (old cant), persons existing on the bounty of the parish.

Badgeer (Anglo-Indian), from the Persian *bād-gēr*, wind-catch. A contrivance for bringing air down into, and for cooling and ventilating a house. A wind tower.

Badger (American thieves), a "panel" thief (panel being probably a corruption of *panny*, a cant word for a house), who robs a man after a woman has enticed him into bed.

In schools it is the fate of red-haired boys to be nicknamed after this animal. (Naval) *badger*-bag, the fictitious Neptune who visits the ship on her crossing the line, and is so called from his badgering the uninitiated. Formerly the term was applied to a huckster or retailer, from *badjulate*, to carry, Latin *bajulare*. To overdraw one's *badger* is slang for overdrawing one's banking account, a play on the expression drawing the *badger*.

His checks no longer drew the cash,
Because, as his comrades explain'd in flash,
He had overdrawn his *badger*.
—*Hood: Miss Kilmansegg.*

Also applied in old cant to a footpad who in old days robbed persons near a river, subsequently throwing the body of the victim into the water; a common prostitute.

Bad give-away (American), incautious betrayal, lapsus.

It was a *bad give-away* when a temperance lecturer absent-mindedly tried to blow the foam off a glass of water.—*American Newspaper.*

Bad halfpenny (Australian convicts' slang), a fruitless errand, no go. Probably taken out by the convicts transported thither. Vaux in his Memoirs says:—

When a man has been upon any errand, or attempting any object which has proved

unsuccessful or impracticable, he will say on his return, "It is *a bad halfpenny*" —meaning that he has returned as he went.

A ne'er-do-well is called *a bad halfpenny*, because the ne'er-do-well of the family is so difficult to get rid of; he is said "to turn up like *a bad halfpenny*," because imperfect coins are constantly being traced back to and forced back on the person who circulates them.

Bad lot (common), a person of indifferent character. The term seems to be derived from an auctioneering phrase. It is often applied to girls who have, as the French term it, "la cuisse gaie."

The girl shuddered.

"I always thought you were a *bad lot*." The chorus girl was trying to pluck up her courage.

"Well, well—I was once as pretty as you, and a deal prettier, and was made more fuss with."—*Ally Sloper's Half Holiday.*

A very handsome girl she may be, but a *bad lot*, as her father was.—*R. D. Blackmore: Erema.*

Bad man (American). This has a special meaning in the West, where it indicates a heartless, cruel murderer. Rowdies and bullies in their boasting often describe themselves as "hard *bad men* from Bitter Creek."

In vain he begged for mercy. Milton was obdurate, and refused to be moved by the would-be *bad man's* prayers. He led him into the post tied up like a broncho steer, and the jeers of the citizens as poor Dosy shambled past them on his way to the jail were the death-knell of his badness. He made no "John Branch plays" after this, but attended faithfully to his herd, and the bare mention of the name of Mad Milton was sufficient to keep him quiet whenever he forgot his defeat and essayed the *rôle* of *bad man.—Detroit Free Press.*

"Bad man" for a *cruel* murderer is indeed a very mild way of putting it. If the euphemism were carried on, a murderer pure and simple would probably be styled a *naughty* man.

Bad match twist (barbers), red hair and black whiskers.

Badminton (prize ring), blood; properly a kind of claret cup. To "tap the badminton, or claret," is to draw blood.

Bag (common), any kind of purse when empty; to give the *bag*, *i.e.*, to dismiss, run away.

When of oof they had bereft him, his own tart had promptly left him,
And gone off with some one else upon a drag.
It was cruel to forsake him; but, as settling day would break him,
She had given him, quite cheerfully, the *bag*.
—*Sporting Times.*

(Printers and sailors), a vulgar term for a pint or pot of beer; "Come and have a *bag*" would be a form of invitation given.

Bag, to (familiar), to steal or seize.

The shameful way in which our ships are being *bagged* without the slightest scruple to suit private ends becomes our wretched system of naval government incomparably. The public, who have to pay

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the piper pretty sweetly for the Spithead pageant, can hardly be expected to look without wonder or disgust at the barefaced partiality displayed by the Admiralty in appropriating vessels.—*Modern Society.*

Also a phrase in common use signifying the expansion of garments by frequent wear.

"You men are so lucky," a fair maiden said,
Discussing the question of dress,
"You're ne'er burdened with petticoats, corsets, nor shawls,
Which to us are a source of distress."

"Yes, I know," said a youth who'd been waiting for this,
An argument ready to seize—
"What you've said is all true, but there's one point you miss,
Your pants never *bag* at the knees."

Baggage smasher (American), a word with two meanings. The first applies to men who hang about the railway stations to steal luggage, the second to the railway porters and others who in America handle trunks and boxes, &c., with extraordinary carelessness.

"I feel depressed to-night," remarked a large, down-town trunk manufacturer to his wife. "I think I have a touch of malaria." "I fancy it will soon pass away," replied the lady, without much concern. "Why don't you go around to the Grand Central Station, and watch them *smash baggage* for an hour. That will revive you!"—*New York Sun.*

A London thief who steals luggage off carriages or cabs by climbing up behind, is termed a "dragsman."

Bagged (American thieves), imprisoned, "scooped in," *i.e.*, taken in, victimised.

Bagging (northern counties), used of food between meals; in Lancashire especially, an afternoon meal, *i.e.*, what is taken about in a bag. See CARPET BAGGING.

Lancashire adopts the whole-board or partial-board system very extensively. The local term of *bagging* implies bread and cheese, or pies; and there are all the varieties of board and lodging, dinner of potatoes and bacon with butter-milk, *bagging* in the forenoon and afternoon, dinner and lunch, and rations allowed for women.—*Chambers's Journal.*

Bagging or **jockeying the over** (cricketers), the practice of batsmen who manage their running in such a manner as to get all the bowling to themselves.

Bagman (general), a commercial traveller. A name formerly given to commercial travellers from their travelling on horseback and carrying their samples or wares in saddle-bags; now used only in a somewhat contemptuous manner.

The late lord came to London with four post-chaises and sixteen horses. The present lord travels with five *bagmen* in a railway carriage.—*W. M. Thackeray: Pendennis.*

Bagnio (old), a bawdy house.

Bag of nails (American), the same as hurrah's nest or whore's nest. Everything in confusion, and topsyturvy. The sign of the *Bag of Nails* in England has been said by inventive and imaginative etymologists to be derived from "the Bacchanals."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"I may bid as high as your pintle, and make you squint like a *bag of nails*," replied the intruder, "though you rub us to whit for it."—*On the Trail.*

Bags (general), trousers. The synonyms are "kicks," "sit upons," "hams." Sometimes rudely called "bumbags."

> Then the throng begins to yell,
> But I scatters 'em pell-mell,
> Be their clothing manly *bags* or female skirts;
> With my staff I goes for all,
> Both the big 'uns and the small,
> For I'm bound to give sich rabble their "deserts."
>
> —*Funny Folks.*

"But, hollo!" he cried, as he caught sight of his legs. "Parsons don't wear tight tweed *bags*." . . . Jack had to unpack his portmanteau, and get out his evening inexpressibles.—*Chambers's Journal.*

When the pattern of the *bags* is very staring they are called "howling *bags*." The synonyms "unmentionables" and "inexpressibles," though generally used jocosely, must have been coined by people with indecent imaginations who think more of the contents than the container, and who would cover with petticoats the nakedness of statues or incase the legs of pianos in "inexpressibles." It may, however, have been invented by ladies who will blush at the word chemise, but who do not scruple to show themselves in public in such a *décolleté* state as to suggest that only the lower half of that garment has been retained.

To "have the *bags off*," is to be of age and one's own master, to have plenty of money. To have the *bags on* would surely be a more appropriate metaphor in this instance.

Bags, to take the (athletic), to go hare in a paper chase.

Ba-ha (tailors), bronchitis.

Bai, by (gypsy), a sleeve, a bough.

Bail (Australian Blackfellows' lingo), no, not. The following is a specimen of the pidgin-English stuffed with Blackfellows' words used by the whites on stations in their intercourse with the aborigines:—

"Too much big-fellow water, *bail* ply (fly), come up; *bail* pind (find) him," answers the aboriginal, adding, however, the question, "you patter potchum" (eat possum).

"Yohi" (yes), said John, rather doubtfully, for he is not sure how his stomach will agree with the strange meat.—*A. C. Grant.*

(Society), to give leg *bail* and land security, a phrase for running away, decamping.

Baist a snarl (tailors), work up a quarrel.

Bait (Winchester), rage, to be in a *bait*, or in a "swot," to be angry. To *bait* a lad is to teaze him.

Bait-land (nautical), an old word, formerly used to signify a port where refreshments could be procured.—*Admiral Smyth.*

Bāk, bacht (gypsy), luck. A very common word. *Bāktalo*, lucky.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"Rya del mandy a panjer." "What for?" "For *bāk*." "For bock, kek—but mandy'll dee it to tute to kin a cigarrus."

"Master give me fiver (5 cents)." "What for?" "For *bāk*." "For bock (beer), no —but I'll give it to you to buy a cigar."—*Gypsy Notes in America* (*MS.*).

Bake, to (Winchester), to rest, to enjoy "dolce far niente;" (common), to fumigate a room.

Baked (Australian), tired out. Slang delights in puns. Because meat put in the oven is said to be *baked* when it is "done," a man who is "done up," or "done," is said to be *baked*. This distinctly "slang" use of *baked* is quite different from *baked* in the sense of "heated" or "hot," in which even ladies often use it. In the English slang only "half-*baked*" means imbecile.

Baked Spanish (common). A *Spanish* means a large Spanish onion.

Maria looks very nervous like at this, but told me afterwards if it hadn't been as she tried to forget of the young man, and only to remember there was tripe for supper and *a baked Spanish*, she'd have fainted right clean away.—*Fun: Murdle Visiting.*

Bākelo (gypsy), hungry. "Shan tu bākelo?"—"Are you hungry?"

Baker (American), a word discovered or unconsciously invented by the Baron E. de Mandat Grancey.

We got there without unduly exciting the idle curiosity of the *bakers* around us. In America they call the habitual man-about-town, the lounger—*baker*. I leave to a more learned etymologist than myself the care of discovering whether there is not in this term an ironical allusion to the way in which they make the execrable bread we are forced to eat everywhere in the country.—*Baron E. Mandat Grancey: Cow-Boys and Colonels.*

The writer of the above had heard the word *loafer*, and having inquired its meaning, innocently translated it as *baker*. In a short time *baker* will, perhaps, be current as a joke, and a few years hence some one learned in Americanisms may possibly declare it to be the original word, or at least a well-established American term, and one recently heard by him in America. (Winchester College), a *baker* is a cushion, generally a large green one, used by prefects and by boys who have studies of their own. The name is also given to a small red cushion used at chapel. Formerly it meant a portfolio. A "*baker* layer" is a junior who has to take a prefect's *baker* in and out of hall at meals. The term was probably obtained by punning on the connotation of the word loaf.

Baker-kneed (workmen), an in-kneed man, one whose knees knock together—the position in which bakers stand to knead their bread tending to make their knees incline inwards.

His voice had broken to a gruffish squeak, he had grown blear-eyed, *baker-kneed*, and gummy.—*Coleman: Poetical Vagaries.*

Baker-legged (see BAKER-KNEED).

. . . His body crooked all over, big belly'd, *baker-legg'd*.—*L'Estrange: Life of Æsop.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Baker's dozen (common), thirteen. Originally the London bakers supplied the retailers with thirteen loaves to the dozen, so as to make sure of not giving short weight.

About a *baker's dozen* of cows and calves were collected.—*P. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

To "give a man a baker's dozen" is to give him a good beating, to give him full measure in that respect.

Baker, to spell, an expression for attempting anything difficult. In old spelling-books, *baker* was the first word of two syllables, and when a child came to it, he thought he had a hard task before him.

If an old man will marry a young wife, why then—why then—why then—he must *spell baker.—Longfellow: The New-England Tragedies.*

Bakes (American), one's original stake in a game, a juvenile term; as "'I will stop when I get my *bakes*,' said by a boy playing marbles" (*Bartlett*), in reference possibly to a baker's not always getting his *bake* safely out of the oven.

Bakester (Winchester), one who bakes—that is, a sluggard, an idle fellow who is fond of lying down doing nothing. (Provincial), a cognomen for a baker.

Baking-leave (Winchester), permission to "bake"—that is, to sit in a study or "pigeon-hole."

Baking-place (Winchester), a sort of couch or sofa, an important article of furniture for those who delight in *baking*, that is, doing nothing.

Bākro, bokro (gypsy), a sheep or lamb; *bakengro*, a shepherd.

Bāl (gypsy), a hair (Hindu, *bal*). *Bālia, bāllor*, hairs; *bālnoi*, hairy.

Balaam-box (printing shops), used by compositors to designate the receptacle for silly paragraphs about monstrosities in art or nature; or old jokes and anecdotes kept in reserve to lengthen out pages or columns which might otherwise remain vacant. The phrase originated in the comparatively remote days when newspaper editors were sometimes at a loss to fill up the allotted space at their command.

An essay for the *Edinburgh Review*, in the old unpolluted English language, would have been consigned by the editor to his *balaam*-basket.—*Hall: Modern English.*

Balaclava day (military), pay day, a survival of the Crimean war. The day on which men having got their pay took it down to Balaclava, the great base of supply, where purchases could best be made from sutlers who had their hut shops there.

Balance (American), the rest or remainder of anything. Bartlett says that it is "a mercantile

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

word originally introduced into the ordinary language of life by the Southern people, but now improperly used throughout the United States to signify the remainder of a thing. The *balance* of an account is a term well authorised and proper, but we also frequently hear such expressions as the *balance* of a speech, the *balance* of the day, &c." It seems doubtful whether *balance* can ever be quite correct unless it signifies an exactly equal half.

I hit on her affections for the *balance* of the season.
—*Negro Song of* 1843.

Balbus (university), Latin prose composition. A term derived from Arnold's "Latin Prose Composition," a well-known text-book in which *Balbus* (who does not connect in his memory this odious individual with the magister's cane?) occurs at the beginning of the exercises and on every page, sometimes over and over again, right through to the end of the book.

Balderdash (old), a term applied to adulterated wine, and to senseless talk or writing.

Bald-face (American), new whiskey.

Bald-faced shirt (American cowboys), a white, *i.e.*, muslin or linen shirt. So called because *bald-faced*, or Hereford cattle have white faces.

Bald-faced stag (popular), a term of derision applied to a bald-headed man.

Bald-headed row (American), the front seats in the pit of a theatre. It is an old joke in the United States, that whenever there is a great "leg-piece," or a "frog-salad" (*i.e.*, a ballet with unusual opportunities for studying anatomy), the front seats are always filled with veteran *roués*, or "Uncle Neds."

Baldober (see BALDOWER), a director, or leader. In German thieves' slang the director or planner of a robbery, who gets a double share.

Baldower (Yiddish), head-speaker. One who conveys information; a spy. Connected with this are *baldowern*, to direct, plan, spy, lurk, observe (in Dutch slang *baldoveren*), also *baldorer*, a spy or traitor.

Bales, a little drive with (popular); *Bales* is the policeman who superintends the Black Maria, or prison van.

I was fined forty shillings, but not forty pence
Had I in my pocket to pay,
So into the p'lice van soon bundled was I,
But to *Bales* I sung all the way.
—*Oh, ain't I having a day. Bertini, Marlborough Street.*

Bale-up (common), an equivalent of "fork out," that is, pay, give the money instantly, a phrase imported from the Australian bushrangers.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Ball (prison), prison allowance; six ounces of meal; a drink. A *ball* of fire in popular slang is a glass of brandy, in allusion to the fieriness and pungency of the wretchedly bad spirit sold as brandy to the lower classes.

Ballad-basket (old cant), a street singer.

Ballast (common), money. Some of the slang synonyms for money were or are—"Oof, ooftish, stumpy, muck, brass, loaver, blunt, needful, rhino, bustle, cole, gilt, dust, dimmock, feathers, brads, chinks, pieces, clinkers, stuff, clumps, chips, coin, shekels, corks, dibbs, dinarly, horse-nails, gent, huckster, mopusses, palm oil, posh, ready, Spanish, rowdy."—*Barrère: Argot and Slang.*

A rich man is said to be well-*ballasted.* A man is said to "lose his *ballast*" when his judgment falls him, or when he becomes top-heavy from conceit.

Ballooning (Stock Exchange). When stock is increased to a figure far beyond its real value it is said to be *ballooned*, and the operation by which this is effected is called *ballooning.* The means by which this result is attained are cooked or otherwise favourable reports, fictitious sales, and so on.

Ballooning it (American), exaggerating, indulging in bounce, pulling the long bow. It is said to have originated in a story of a man who boasted that he had fought a duel in a balloon and brought down his adversary, balloon and all. But this was a veritable occurrence, as appears by the *St. James's Gazette* of August 5, 1887—

"Since General Boulanger's conditions are unacceptable to M. Ferry, and as the usages of duellists seem conflicting on this subject, perhaps these eminent men might try a duel on the very reasonable conditions agreed on by M. de Grandpré and M. le Pique in Paris in 1808. These gentlemen having quarrelled about a lady, agreed to have it out in balloons, each party to fire at the other's balloon and try and bring him down. A month was taken to build two similar balloons; and on a fine day the pair ascended with their seconds from the Tuileries gardens, armed with blunderbusses. When they were about half a mile up, and some eighty yards apart, the signal was given, and M. le Pique missed. M. de Grandpré, however, made a successful shot, and his opponent's balloon went down with tremendous rapidity, both principal and second being instantly killed—much to the satisfaction of the spectators."

Balls (popular), "to make *balls* of it," to make a mistake, to get into trouble.

Balls' all (popular), all rubbish.

Ballum-rankum (old), a ball where all the dancers are thieves, prostitutes, or other very degraded persons, as in the "buff-ball," in which both sexes join without clothing.

Bally (society), a word in use among the young men of the

present day to emphasise a speech. Coined by the *Sporting Times*, from the Irish word "bally-hooly." It is mostly used as a euphemism for "bloody." Of the same class are "darn it!" "by golly!" "great Scott!"

"Oh, that's b—— rot!" quoth the disdainful Chiderdoss, who by way of a change had both backed and tipped the right 'un. "Who interfered with him?"

"Why, the *bally* winner, of course! Didn't he get in front of him?"

And then sundry sad and silent men faded away into the Rainbow, and got in front of several drinks.—*Sporting Times.*

Ballyrag (Oxford University), a free fight in jest. This is an old word that has been in use at least a hundred years—spelt also bullarag. The conclusion of a big "wine" (*vide* WINE), is often a wholesale *ballyrag* or *mêlée*, always carried on in good temper (personal violence in a quarrel is practically unknown at Oxford). To *ballyrag* a man is to mob him and play practical jokes upon him, to hustle him. To *ballyrag* a man's rooms is to turn them upside down, to make "hay" of them.

Dear Muriel,—I always was rather a toff; but when I tell you that this blooming house has become *perfectly beastly*, I know you will pity the poor old bounder. I have been rotting all day in the library, but even *ballyragging* has lost its charm. A sweep or a smug would be a relief, but there is not so much as a plunger to be seen nor a mug to speak to. Under these circumstances I miss you most awfully, and I write to say that if you would come to my diggings for a little while it would be perfectly rippin.—Your affectionate uncle, G. E. C.

P.S.—That's where the joke comes in. —*The Culture of the Misses: The St. James's Gazette.*

(Common), to bully, to make a kick up or riot.

None of your flaring up, and *ballyragging* the people about.—*Edmund Yates: The Rock Ahead.*

The word is a corruption of *bullyrag*, to threaten, bully, hustle. "Bully" is a provincialism for a riot. It may be noted that in Yiddish *bâlhe* and *rag* mean a riot, a fight, and rage. *Bahle-rag* would, in fact, be a roaring row.

Balm (old), a falsehood.

Balmy (common), sleepy, from *balmy* (lit., soothing) sleep; weak-minded, dull, easily imposed upon, mad.

The people in our alley call me Salvation Sally,
Since I have been converted, but I try to bear the load,
They say I must be *balmy* to go and join the Army,
That leads you to salvation in the Whitechapel Road.
—*Salvation Sally.*

The expression is much in favour with thieves.

I had hardly got outside when he came out like a man *balmy*.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Among convicts to "put on the *balmy* stick" is to feign insanity.

There was always a number putting on the "*balmy* stick"—or, in plain terms, feigning insanity. Nobody in prison be-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

lieves in brain disease. Every lunatic is accused of "putting it on," and is punished for it. There are always a dozen or so in the *balmy* ward.—*Evening News.*

To be a little bit "*balmy* in one's crumpet" means to be slightly crazy. The synonyms are "to be touched," "off one's chump," "wrong in the upper storey," "to have rats in the upper storey," "a tile loose," "half-baked," "dotty." To "go *balmy*" signifies to go mad.

"Ah," said Tom Carleton subsequently to the Talepitcher, "none o' *my* kids ever go *balmy* over flowers or the Academy; give 'em ice cream and Buffalo Bill—that's the business!"

To have a "dose of *balmy*," or a "wink of the *balmy*," to sleep.

As it's rather late, I'll try and get a wink or two of the *balmy*.—*Charles Dickens: Old Curiosity Shop.*

Bālo, bālor, bawlor (gypsy), a pig.

"Oh I jāssed to the ker
An' I tried to mang the *bālor*,
Tried to mang the mūllo *bālor*
When I jāssed to the ker"—

"I went to the house and I tried to beg the pig, tried to beg the dead pig when I went to the house."
—*English Gypsy Ballads.*

Policemen are also called *bālor*, or "pigs" in gypsy.

Balovas te (an') yoras (gypsy), bacon and eggs; *yoras*, eggs.

"Ballovas an' yoras,
Ballovas an' yoras,
A' the rye an' the rāni
A pirryin āp the drom"—

"Oh! the eggs and bacon,
Oh! the eggs and bacon,
And the gentleman and lady
A-walking up the way."

Balsam (thieves' slang), money.

"It was no great quids, Jim—only six flimseys and three beans. But I'm flush of the *balsam* now, and I ain't funked to flash it."—*New York Slang Dictionary.*

—*I.e.*, "There wasn't much money, Jim—only six notes and three sovereigns. But I've plenty of money now, and I am not afraid to show it."

Also impertinence, impudence.

Balwar (Anglo-Indian), a barber. This is an amusing instance of native blending of *balwala* (hair-person, *capillarius*) with the English word.

It often takes the further form *balbar*, another fictitious hybrid shaped by the Persian *buridan*, to cut; *guosi*, hair-cutter.—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Bam (old), facetious humbug; "to *bam*" was to impose on a person by means of falsehood; also to chaff and poke fun at any one.

Bamboozle, to (common), to cheat, to delude, to humbug.

Fair ladies attend! and if you've a friend
At court, don't attempt to *bamboozle* or trick her!
Don't meddle with negus, or any mixed liquor!
Don't dabble in "magic!" my story has shown,
How wrong 'tis to use any charms but your own.
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

In the language of sailors, to *bamboozle* has the meaning of to decoy the enemy by hoisting false colours.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Hotten, with others, credits *bamboozle* to the gypsies; as *bambhorna* is Hindu for to humbug, and as the terminative *āsel* is used in Romany, it is possible that *bamboozle* is the Hindu word gypsified.

Banagher, to bang.

Banco or **bunko steerer** or **roper** (American), a sharper, a confidence-trick man.

The *roper* or the *banco steerer* gentleman is one and the same animal, and he will find you out the morning after you land in Chicago or St. Louis. He will accost you—very friendly, wonderfully friendly—when you come out of your hotel, by your name, and he will remind you—which is most surprising considering you never set eyes on his face before—how you have dined together in Cincinnati, or it may be Orleans, or perhaps Francisco, because he finds out where you came from last. And he will shake hands with you; and he will propose a drink; and he will pay for that drink. And presently he will take you somewhere else, among his pals, and he will strip you so clean that there won't be left the price of a four-cent paper to throw around your face and hide your blushes.—*The Golden Butterfly.*

(Charterhouse School), *banco*, evening school.

Bandanna (Anglo-Indian). Hotten says of this word that it was originally a peculiar kind of silk handkerchief, but is now a slang word, denoting all kinds of "stooks," "wipes," and "fogles," and in fact the generic term for a kerchief. In the United States it is specially applied to a kind of cotton or muslin handkerchief from Madras, much worn by women of colour, especially old-fashioned or elderly ones, wrapped about the head. The American *bandanna* is invariably made of yellow and red in cross stripes.

This term is properly applied to the rich yellow or red silk handkerchief with diamond spots left white by pressure applied to prevent their receiving the dye. The etymology may be gathered from Shakspeare's Dictionary, which gives *bāndhnā*, a mode of dyeing in which the cloth is tied in different places, to prevent the parts from receiving the dye. "Sir Horace Fogle is about to be raised to the peerage as Baron Bandanna" (*Vanity Fair*, ii. c. 52.)—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Banded (popular), hungry; literally, bound up. From the notion that to appease the pangs of hunger, one must tighten his belt.

Bandero (American), widow's weeds.—*New York Slang Dictionary.*

Bandog (old), a bailiff or his assistant.

B. and S. (common), brandy and soda.

"And now, wife of mine, I wonder whether your domestic handiness would go far enough to give me a *B. and S.*?" The obedient wife flies to the cellaret, and for the first time in her life Squire Morcombe's daughter opens a soda-water bottle.—*Braddon: Hostages to Fortune.*

Bands (Australian convicts), hunger. Introduced into Australia by the convicts transported thither. *Cf.* the English thieves' expression *banded*, meaning hungry.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"To wear the *bands*" is to be hungry or short of food for any length of time; a phrase chiefly used on board the hulks or in jail.—*Vaux's Memoirs.*

In the early days of New South Wales, before Australia began to produce meal and grain for itself, the colony was dependent for its supplies upon England and the Cape of Good Hope, and the colonists were several times on very short commons, and even on one occasion were absolutely in danger of perishing. The phrase is derived from the custom among the poor, and soldiers on an expedition, of wearing a tight belt round the stomach to prevent the pains of starvation.

Bandy (Anglo-Indian), a word of general application to several kinds of vehicles, such as carriages, bullock waggons, buggies, and carts. Used in Southern and Western India. It is the Telegu *bandi*, Tamil *vandi*.—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

A mighty solemn old man, seated in an open *bandy*, as a gig with a head that has an opening behind is called at Madras.—*Memoir of Colonel Mountain*, 1826.

In thieves' slang it means a sixpence, so called from this coin being sometimes bent.

Bang (pugilistic and low), a blow; Icelandic *bang*, a hammering. "I'll give you a *bang* in the 'gills.'" To *bang*, to beat.

The hemp, with which we used to *bang*
Our prison pets, yon felon gang,
In Eastern climes produces *bhang*,
Esteemed a drug divine.
As hashish dressed, its magic powers
Can lap us in Elysian bowers,
But sweeter far our social hours
Over a flask of wine.
—*Lord Neaves: Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Banged up to the eyes, is drunk. Hair worn down low on the forehead almost to the eyes, is in America called a *bang*, and the practice of thus wearing it is *to bang*. Called "toffs" in England.

Bang, as applied to wearing the hair low, is derived from the provincial English. In Norfolk the edge of a hat is said to *bangle* (Wright) when it drops or *bangs* down over the eyes. And corn or young shoots when beaten by the rain and hanging down, are *bangled* or *banged*. So loose and hanging ears are "bangled ears."—*Notes by C. G. Leland.*

He *banged* his hair to hide his bunged eye.—*Newspaper.*

To make the *bang*, you must begin by dividing your front hair at half-inch distances from ear to ear, combing the rest back. The process is repeated until the whole front hair has been successfully *banged*.—*Illustrated London News.*

(Stock Exchange), to *bang*, to loudly offer stock with the intention of lowering the price.

Oh! in the days of old,
At least, so I've been told,
We only heard of 'puff," and "rig," and *bang*,
But now better things exist,
For we daily swell the list,
And have really quite a choice of market slang.
—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

To *bang* also signifies to excel or surpass. *Banging*, great or thumping.

Banger (Yale), a thick stick, cane, or bludgeon.

The freshman reluctantly turned the key,
Expecting a Somophore gang to see,
Who, with faces masked and *bangers* stout,
Had come resolved to smoke him out.
—*Yale Literary Magazine*, vol. xx.

(Popular), an obvious untruth.

Bangle (Anglo-Indian). This word, now generally used in England, is from the Hindu *bangri*. The original is applied to a bracelet of coloured glass, but it is now extended to all kinds of such ornaments for the wrist when in ring-form or of one piece of metal.

Hear their wrists and ankles jangle,
With many a brass and silver *bangle*;
Dresses sprayed with many a spangle,
So for living fish they angle.
—*The Mild Hindoo.*

Miss H. wore her blazing Cashmere shawl; her great brooch . . .; and her great bracelets (she used to say, "I am given to understand they are called *bangles*, my dear, by the natives") decorated the sleeves round her lean old hands.—*Thackeray: The Newcomes.*

It is curious that the Hindu word *bangri* exists in England as the gypsy term for a waistcoat, *i.e.*, originally a mere ring, belt, or circlet of cloth, like a cummerbund.

Bang off (common), to write a letter *bang off*, in a hurry.

Bangster, a provincialism for the victor.

If you are so certain of being the *bangster*, so very certain, I mean, of sweeping stakes.—*Sir Walter Scott: St. Ronan's Well.*

Also, a loose woman, a bully.

If the Pope's champions are to be *bangsters* in our very change-houses, we shall soon have the old shavelings back again. —*Scott: The Abbot.*

Bang straw (provincial), a barn thresher, but applied to farm servants in general.

Bang-tailed (popular), short-tailed.

"These little *bang-tailed* sinners any good?" said Drysdale, throwing some cock-a-bondies across the table.—*T. Hughes: Tom Brown at Oxford.*

Bang-up (common), fine, first-rate. Synonymous with "slap-up." To *bang-up*, to make first-rate, stylish.

Pat to his neck-cloth gave an air
In style, and *à la militaire*;
His pocket, too, a kerchief bore,
With scented water sprinkled o'er;
Thus *banged-up*, sweeten'd, and clean shav'd,
The sage the dinner-table braved.
—*Combe: Dr. Syntax.*

Jem drove me in a gig of the regular *bang-up*, stay-for-nothing, rumtumtiddity order.—*Punch.*

Nothing more thoroughly *bang-up* and highgeewoa rollicking than the run which the Evergreen had last Thursday.—*Punch.*

A *bang-up* cove is a dashing fellow who spends his money freely. Bartlett gives *bang-up* as American, but it has long been common in England, where it originated. "Bangs Banagher," beats the world.

Bang up to the mark (popular), in fine or dashing style.

Bangy (Winchester) brown; brown clothes considered as

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

vulgar; brown sugar. Probably from *bangy*, dull, gloomy, an adjective used in Essex.

Bangy-wallah (Anglo-Indian), a carrier of parcels.

The lady's luggage was particularly scant, and the *bangy-wallahs*, as they are called, who carry the boxes, had an easy time of it.—*Mark Lemon: Falkner Lyle.*

Banjee (Anglo-Indian), a band of music.

Banjo, the name given by the patients in one at least of the London hospitals to a bed-pan, from its somewhat fanciful resemblance to the well-known and now fashionable musical instrument.

Bank, to (thieves'), to put in a place of safety. "To *bank* the swag," to secure the booty. Also, *to bank* is to go shares.—*Hotten.*

Bankers (old), clumsy boots and shoes.

Bankrupt cart (old), a one-horse chaise; so called, it is said, by Lord Mansfield, from being so frequently used on Sunday jaunts by extravagant tradesmen.

Bank sneak (American), "*bank sneak* thieves," men of education, good address, and faultless attire, who in gangs of three or four engage the attention of the officers of a bank while one of their number commits a robbery. No thieves are so dangerous, or so much dreaded.

Banners (American), newsboys' slang. The word is explained in the following extract from the *Chicago Tribune*:—

"Oh, I say, Figsy," cried one, "ain't yer gittin' stood off a good deal on yer *banner* this week?"

"Yer'd better dry up, Slimmy, or may be yer wouldn't like me to mention how yer sponges yer eatin's."

"Eatin's," explained the matron, "are the meals which they get down-town. *Banners* are the fees which they pay for their meals and lodgings at the home. That word is in use all over the United States, and I have never found a newsboy yet who could tell me where it came from."

Banter, to (American). The preliminary discussion or *pour-parler* which precedes a bargain is called a *banter* or *bantering*. It is derived from *banter*, to make a jest of or to challenge.

CHATHAM, N.C., Nov. 15, 1886.—A white man named Moore was sent to the chain-gang on Saturday for having traded wives with another man. When Judge Gilmer asked him what he had to say why sentence should not be passed, he replied that he did not know his act was a crime. A man came to his house with a woman that was better-looking than his own wife, and *bantered* him for a trade; so he "swapped," and paid $1.50 to boot. As this was his first "swap" he hoped that the court would impose a light sentence. —*Chicago Tribune.*

Banting, the process of getting rid of superfluous fat by means of a strictly regulated diet. The method was introduced by Mr. Banting—hence the name—about twenty-five years ago.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

A parlour where all the furniture seemed to have undergone a prolonged course of *banting.—Miss Braddon: Only a Clod.*

Banty (popular), saucy, impudent. Probably from bantam or *banty*-chickens, which are proverbial in America for pertness.—*New York Slang Dictionary.*

Banyan (Anglo-Indian), an undershirt, originally of muslin, and so called as resembling the body garment of the Hindus, but now commonly applied to under body clothing of elastic cotton, woollen, or silk web.—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Those were the days when even the honourable members of the Council met in *banyan* shirts, conjee caps, and long drawers, with a case-bottle of good old arrack, and a gouglet of water on the table. —*India Gazette, February* 24, 1781.

An undershirt, commonly called a *banian.—Williamson, V. M.* i. 19.

I have lost nothing by it but a *banyan* shirt, a corner of my quilt, and my Bible singed.—*Sufferings of a Dutch Sailor.*

Banyan days (nautical), those in which no flesh meat was issued to the messes. Stock-fish used to be served out till it was found to promote scurvy.

Of kitcheny (butter, rice, and dal) the European sailors feed in these parts, and are forced at such times to a Pagan abstinence from flesh, which creates in them an utter detestation to those *banian days*, as they call them.—*Ovington*, A.D. 1690.

May your honour never know a *banyan day*, and a sickly season for you, into the bargain!—*Marryat: Japhet in Search of a Father.*

According to Admiral Smyth, "The term is derived from a religious sect in the East, who, believing in metempsychosis, eat of no creature endowed with life." Hotten says the term is probably derived from the Banians or Banyans, a Hindoo caste, who abstain from animal food. Quite as probably from the sanitary arrangements which have in hot climates counselled the eating on certain days of banyans and other fruits in preference to meat.

The dinner, I own, is shy, unless I come and dine with my friends, and then I make up for *banian days.—Thackeray: The Adventures of Philip.*

Bar (racing), except. *Bar* is used instead of the common compound form debar. When the bookmaker says "ten to one *bar* one," he means that he will lay ten to one against any horse *bar* (*i.e.*, except) one.

"How do they bet?" inquired the Jubilee Plunger.

"Evens," replied Gus Jacobs.

"All right. I'll bet you a monkey."

"No," said Gus. "I don't want to bet—but here! I'll lay you 700 to 400 *bar* one."

"All right," said the Plunger. "I'll have it."—*Sporting Times.*

(American thieves), "*bar* that toss," stop that game.

"*Bar* that toss, Jim," said Bell, "for you're as fly at the pictures as the devil at lying, and I would rather be a knight of Alsatia than a plucked pigeon."—*On the Trail.*

(Oxford University), *to bar*, to object to. Probably from *to bar*, in the sense of to except; commoner in the compound form

debar. A "Bullingdon" man would probably say that he *barred* "the Union." An "Exeter" man would be pretty certain to say that he *barred* "Jesus."

Bār (gypsy), a hedge, a garden or inclosure; a pound for cattle. Persian, *bāgh*. Also a stone; *tacho bār*, a true or real stone, *i.e.*, a diamond.

Baragan tailor (tailors), a rough tailor.

Barber, to (university), to do one's impositions by deputy, the college barber having often been employed to perform this duty—hence the phrase. Those who by this means get rid of their impositions are said to *barberise* them.

"And as for the impositions, why," as Mr. Bouncer said, "ain't there coves to *barberise* for you, Gig-lamps?"—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Barber, that's the (old slang). Grose in his rare first edition of the "Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue," says this was "a ridiculous and unmeaning phrase in the mouths of the common people about the year 1760, signifying their approbation of any action, measure, or thing."

Barber's cat (common). Hotten gives the definition—a half-starved, sickly-looking person. A term used in connection with a coarse expression.

Barber's clerk (common), a conceited, over-dressed fellow, who apes the manners of a gentleman.

Barbly (pidgin), babble, noise. Probably the same as bobbery or bobbely. "Too muchee *barbly* makee that chilo."

Bared (popular), shaved.

There are boys who think themselves men, and who go to barbers' shops to be, as they say, *bared.—Diprose: Modern Joe Miller.*

Bare-footed on top of the head (American), an expression applied to a bald man.

Barge (printers), an article used by compositors in correcting the forms. Either a flat piece of card, or a small wooden box, with divisions to hold spaces for altering the justification of the line. A case, with some boxes full and others nearly empty, is also called a *barge*, probably referring to those boxes full up to the edge. The technical term would be space papers or space box.

(Common), *barge* or *bargey*, a term of ridicule applied to a very corpulent man or woman of large posterior development; a simile derived from the shape of a coal barge, or any clumsy boat or ship, compared with a wherry, or other vessel of more elegant and slender build.

Bāris, bawris, bawri (gypsy), a snail; *bawris simmun*, snail soup.

Bark (popular), an Irish man or woman. Hotten says that no etymology can be found for this.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

In low Whitechapel Yiddish the term would at once be understood to mean a wanderer or vagabond, based on *barkolis*, or *bargolis*, one who goes about in misery and poverty, and *barches*, "further," as *barches holchen*, "to go further." It is, however, probably derived from the Celtic *barrag*, scum, or dirty scum. Scum, as an abusive term, "scum of the earth," is originally Irish, *vide* BARKSHIRE.

(Common), the skin, to "*bark* one's shins" is to get the skin off one's shins.

That'll take the *bark* from your nozzle, and distil the Dutch pink for you, won't it?—*The Further Adventures of Mr. Verdant Green.*

(Popular), cough.

So I suppose we must sing "Spring's Delights" when we ain't on the *bark* or the sneeze.—*Punch*, 1887.

Barker (common), a man employed at the doors of shows and shops of an inferior class to entice people inside. The French slang has the exactly corresponding term *aboyeur*. Among touting photographers he is called a "doorsman." At universities a *barker* signifies a great swell, and in America a noisy coward; *barker* has another signification explained by the following quotation:—

But what was "barking"? I thought a great deal about the matter, and could arrive at no more feasible conclusion than that a *barker* was a boy that attended a drover, and helped him to drive his sheep by means of imitating the bark of a dog.—*Charles Greenwood: Outcasts of London.*

Also used by thieves for pistol. The term is in contradiction to the saying, that a "dog that barks seldom bites."

Here a loud holloa was heard close by the horses' heads. "Good heavens, if that is a footpad!" said Mr. Spencer, shaking violently. "Lord, sir, I have my *barkers* with me."—*Bulwer: Night and Morning.*

"*Barkers* for me, Barney," said Toby Crackit.

"Here they are," replied Barney, producing a pair of pistols.—*Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

In nautical parlance, *barkers* is an old term for lower-deck guns and pistols.

Barkey (nautical), a sailor thus calls a pet ship to which he belongs.

For the *barkey* she did know,
As well as e'er a soul on board,
'Twas time for us to go.
—*Old American Slaver's Song.*

Barking irons (thieves), pistols; and in nautical slang large duelling pistols, which French soldiers call "pieds de cochon."

Barkshire, a word applied by the low English to Ireland; from *bark*, a contemptuous and derisive name for an Irishman or Irishwoman. A member for *Barkshire* is a noisy, howling, troublesome fellow, who attempts to cough down his opponents, *i.e.*, *bark* at them.

Bark up the wrong tree, to (American), is said of a man who vainly endeavours to accomplish a thing for which he is not fitted, or who addresses

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

himself to the wrong person for assistance.

"You didn't really go to old Bullion," said a politician to an office seeker; "why, he has no influence there, I can tell you; you *barked up the wrong tree* there, my friend, and you deserve to fail.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

Barnaby (common), to dance *Barnaby* is to move quickly and irregularly. See Cotton in his "Virgil Travestie," where, speaking of Eolus, he has these lines—

"'Bounce,' cries the portholes, out they fly,
And make the world dance *Barnaby*."

Barnacle (old cant), pickpocket.

The man that stood beside thee is old Crookfinger, the most notorious setter, *barnacle*, and foist in the city.—*Mark Lemon: Leyton Hall.*

Barnacles (common), spectacles; termed also "gig-lamps" or "bosses." From *barnacle*, a kind of shellfish, or from *barnacles*, an instrument consisting of two branches joined at one end with a hinge, to put upon a horse's nose, to confine him for shoeing, bleeding, or dressing.

Your eyes dasell after your washing; these spectacles put on;
Now view this raysour; tell me, is it not a good one?
They bee gay *barnikles*, yet I see never the better.
—*Edwards: Damon and Pithias.*

Barndoor practice (society), the fashionable but indefensible system of battue, by which the birds are brought all within a limited range, where they fall an easy prey to the "sportsman!"

Barnet fair (thieves), rhyming slang for hair; called also "thatch."

Barney (popular), a mob or a crowd, disturbance.

'Ard lines, ain't it, Charlie, old hoyster?
A *barney's* a *barney*, dear boy,
And you know that a squeege and a skylark is wot I did always enjoy.
A street-rush is somethink splendacious to fellers of speerit like me,
But dints and diakkylum plaster will spile the best sport, dontcher see.
—*Punch.*

This word has several meanings, and apparently two distinct roots—one Aryan, and the other Semitic. *Barney*, a mob or crowd, may be derived from the gypsy *bāro*, great or many, which sometimes takes the form of *barno* or *barni*, and which suggests the Hindu *bahrna*, to increase, proceed, to gain, &c., and *bharna*, to fill or satisfy. *Barney*, a swindle, a sell, or a cross, is probably from the Yiddish *barniss* or *barnoss*, which becomes a Jewish proper name in Barnet, popularly *Barney*. (Dickens gives this name to a young Jew.) *Barniss* means a leader of a multitude, or headman of any description. Remote as the connection between a "swindle" and a "captain" may seem to be, it is direct enough according to the lowest form of Yiddish or German thieves' slang, in which a leading, a clever, a swindling man are all united in *cochemer*, "a wise man," and also "a leader of thieves." In *achprosch* we have

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

again the conceptions of intelligence united to robbery, and to leadership. Further, *baldober*, a director, a leader, is applied to an arch-thief who gets double share. *Balmassematen* has also the double meaning of a shrewd man of business and a swindler, and the transition from a swindler to a swindle is natural enough, and has many parallels. It is to be observed that Hebrew terms of this stamp are far more frequently used by Christian than by Jewish malefactors, as is proved by their corruption. From the *barniss*, *barnet*, or *barney* of a gang of thieves, we have *barneying*, robbing, or swindling, whence *barney*, a swindle, is all in order.

(Racing), the person who prevents a horse winning a race, is described as "doing a *barney*." The same phrase is applied to the horse itself.

(Running), humbug, rubbish; in racing, when a man does not try to win.

(Society), trip, excursion, outing.

(Popular), fun, larking; teasing for amusement. It is common to hear people of the lower class say, whenever there is any object in view to make fun of, or have a game with, "Let's have a *barney*."

Barney, to (Harvard University), to recite badly.

Barn mouse (popular), to be bitten by a *barn mouse*, to be tipsy. Possibly an allusion to barley.

Barn stormer (familiar), a term formerly applied to itinerant actors who acted in barns, like the troupe of Scarron's Roman Comique, and that of Gautier's Capitaine Fracasse.

Barnum (American.) "To talk *Barnum*" is not to indulge in extravagant "high-falutin," —this the great American never does,—but to utter vast assertions in a quiet manner. The following is a good specimen of it.

> Rising Phœnix-like from the ashes of my fifth great fire, which only served to illuminate my path of duty as the American people's champion amusement-provider, I have taken into equal partnership my energetic and experienced friend and former associate, James A. Bailey. We have enlarged and vastly improved the greatest show on earth, which we propose to establish as a permanence, with a reserved capital of several millions of dollars. At an early date we intend to establish in several of the largest American cities permanent museums containing many thousands of natural, artificial, mechanical, and scientific curiosities. . . . The Barnum and Bailey show will present to this and future generations a world's fair and a moral school of object teaching of unexampled variety and superior excellence, more amusing, instructive, comprehensive, and vast than was ever before seen or dreamed of.—*Phineas T. Barnum.*

Barnumise, to (American), to act as Mr. Barnum, a showman, impresario, and a public character, in so many phases famous, or notorious, that his name has passed into the established list of Americanisms. The word humbug does not express so much as that of Barnum.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Barnum had made himself so extremely conspicuous in so many ways even thirty years ago, that a Paris editor suggested that when his engagement as manager for Jenny Lind should come to an end, she would make quite as much money if she would go about exhibiting *him*. Long ago not a soul in the United States put the least faith in Barnum's curiosities, but this made no difference in the receipts, people thronged in "just to *see how* he humbugged the greenhorns." In one advertisement the great exhibitor admitted with beautiful candour that what he exhibited might *not* be genuine, that he himself with all his experience might have been taken in by unscrupulous deceivers—"all that we ask," he said, "is that the public will come and judge for themselves, and we promise faithfully to abide by their verdict." The public did come, paying twenty-five cents (or one shilling) per head and passed their verdict, and Mr. Barnum *did* abide by it (and the dollars), and at once got out something new. At last nobody put any faith in his curiosities. Then it became a source of intense delight to him to exhibit objects which were really remarkable, and to make the public believe they were frauds. Having once a real bearded woman, Barnum ingeniously contrived to have it reported that she was a man, and to get himself prosecuted for imposition, the result being a medical examination, an acquittal, and of course an increased rush of sight-seers. It should be added that Mr. Barnum has always been noted for very great though always judicious generosity, that he is exceptionally honourable and honest in his private dealings, and that he has built up Bridgeport, Connecticut, from a small town to a city. Barnum's colossal show was destroyed by fire a short time since.

Barrack hack (army), a girl who prowls about barracks for purposes of prostitution, generally the lowest of the low. French soldiers call these "paillasse de corps-de-garde." *Barrack-hack* is also applied to young ladies of perfectly virtuous character, but who have been to garrison or military balls for several years. The term was freely used at one time in reference to one of the parties in a noted criminal case.

Barracking (Australian), bantering. Probably from the slang term *barrikin*, jargon, speech, or discourse, on account of the "palaver" which traders must hold before they can strike a bargain.

Barrakin or **barrikin** (popular), jargon, gibberish; low, unintelligible language.

The high words in a tragedy we calls jaw-breakers, and we say we can't tumble to that *barrikin*.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

From the French *baragouin*, which has the same meaning. It occurs in Rabelais as *barragoin*. "Cheese your *barrikin*," stop talking, shut up.

Barrel boarder (American), "a bucket-shop bummer, a low sot" (*New York Slang Dictionary*), evidently derived from sitting about on the barrels in a small shop.

Barrel fever (common), the sickness caused by intoxication, sometimes called the bottle-ache, the quart-mania, and the gallon-distemper, all possible precursors of *delirium tremens*.

Barres (old), gamblers' term, applied to money lost by them, but which they do not pay.

Whereby they wyl drawe a mannes money but pay none, which they call *barres*.—*Ascham: Toxophilus.*

Barrick (American), a common word in Pennsylvania for a hill. From the German *berg*.

Bang, bang! de sharp pistolen shots
Vent pipin by his ear,
Boot he tortled oop de *barrick* road
Like any mountain deer.
—*Breitmann in Politics.*

Barrow-bunter (costermongers), female costermonger.

I saw a dirty *barrow-bunter* in the street, cleaning her dusty fruit with her own spittle.—*Smollett: Humphrey Clinker.*

Barrow-tram (popular), a term applied jocularly to a raw-boned, awkward-looking person.

Barter (Winchester), a *barter* is a ball more generally called a "half volley" by cricketers, from the name of R. S. Barter, a famous cricketer. It has also the signification of a hard hit. To *barter* is to hit the ball hard at cricket.

Barts, an abbreviation of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, used by medical students and others.

Barvelo (gypsy), rich, wealthy.

A lórdus vias kete wélgóro
Rya te ranis shan *barveli*.
A tano rye te a kámelo,
Ávo mí pírrynī, ávali!
—*A Lord Went to the Fair*

—Lords and ladies are rich. A young gentleman and an agreeable (lovely) one. Yes, my sweetheart, yes.—*Janet Tuckey.*

(Hindu), *bhara*, increase, fulness.

Bash, to (popular), to strike, to thrash, to crush; to *bash* hats is a favourite amusement of London roughs in a large crowd. From a provincialism to beat fruit down from the trees with a pole.

He taps me across the hand with a cane, and my mother goes in and *bashes* him over the head with a poker, and gets him fined for assaulting me.—*Punch.*

(Pugilistic), a *bash* is one of a variety of blows.

It certainly seemed also that this encounter had been full of "go." The "cockles" of the hearts of Corinthian Tom and Jerry Hawthorn warmed as they heard and read of "fibbing" and "countering," of "red-hot smacks," "left-handers on the nob," "rib-roasters," "upper-cuts," "exchanges," "*bashes*," "knock-downers," "body-punches," "spankers," "welts," "smashers," "whistlers," "rattling ivories," "stingers," "bangs," "hot-uns," and of the "tapping" of the "claret," and the flowing of "the ruby."—*Punch.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(Old provincial English), to beat. In Bedfordshire to beat fruit trees with a pole. Allied to *baste*, to beat; Icelandic *beysta*, Swedish *bösta*, and *basa*, to beat. An English word of Danish origin.

In prisons to *bash* signifies to strike, and especially to flog. *Bashing in*, a flogging at the commencement of a ruffian's term of imprisonment; *bashing out*, one at the close.

(Popular), a tremendous plunge or fall. A word expressive of sudden concussion, breaking up, or tumbling.

The chaise went crash and I went *bash*
Amongst the shafts and wheels,
And Mary Ann and her mama,
Went right head over heels!
—George Horncastle: Mary Ann and her Mama.

Basher (pugilistic), prize fighter, synonymous with "bruiser."

Bashing (prison), a flogging.

Basing (gaming). "That's *basing*" when clubs are turned up trumps —the allusion as generally explained being "that clubs were trumps when *Basing* was taken." This was one of the most memorable of the sieges of the Civil War.

Basket (old cant), used in the phrase "a kid in the *basket*," said of a woman in the family way.

(Tailors), stale news.

Basket meeting (American). A half picnic and half religious meeting.

Basket, to bring to the (old), to fall into poverty.

God be praised! I am not *brought to the basket*, though I had rather live on charity than rapine.—*Father Darrell: Gentlemen Instructed.*

Basket, to go to the (old), to be imprisoned.

Arrested! this is one of those whose base and abject flattery helped to dig his grave. He is not worth your pity, nor my anger; *go to the basket* and repent.—*Massinger: Fatal Dowry.*

This is from the fact that a basket was lowered from the prison window for alms by a man, who called out, "Pity the poor prisoners!"

Bastard brig (naval), a coaster, termed also a "schoony-orgy" or "hermaphrodite brig."

Bastile (thieves, paupers, and tramps), the workhouse or "big house;" formerly a prison. The word is now abbreviated into "steel."

Bat (American), a frolic, a spree. An abbreviation of *batter*, which means the same.

I'm away from the shop and away from my work,
And I mean to cut up like a regular Turk;
So down with the Lager and up with your hat,
We are off for the day on a regular *bat*.
—Concert Hall Songs.

Also a prostitute who only walks the streets at night. Termed "hirondelle de nuit" in French slang.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

You lie, you *bat*—I couple with no cove but my own. Harry, will you let yourself be made a two-legged stool of by a flag-about?—*On the Trail.*

In the English slang, "on his own *bat*" has the signification of on his own account, by his own exertions, a cricketing phrase. *Bat* also means pace—to go off at a good *bat.*

Bates' farm (prison), the prison; probably applied only to Cold Bath Fields.

Now every morning when you rise
You get a starving meal,
And if you don't eat all they send
You have to work the wheel.
Then so merrily we go
To chapel to have prayers,
And for a little pastime work
The everlasting stairs.
For it was this blooming morning
I left *Old Bates's farm.*
I feel so glad this blessed day
I've left *Old Bates's farm!*

So C. B. F., the initials of Cold Bath Fields stamped on articles used in the prison, is interpreted Charley Bates's Farm, and to be on the treadmill there is feeding the chickens on Charley Bates's Farm. A warder of that name is said to have been in charge there.

Bath (general), "go to *Bath*" is so universally used that it has almost ceased to be slang. Invalids or insane persons used to be sent to Bath for the benefit of its mineral waters. So "go to *Bath*" literally meant you are mad, go to Bath to get cured.

You tell a disagreeable neighbour to "go to *Bath*" in the sense in which a Roman would have said "abi in malam rem."—*Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, New York.*

"Go to *Bath!*" said the Baron. A defiance so contemptuous roused the ire of the adverse commanders.—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

This town does not seem to have been in favour with the Earl of Rochester, who thus describes it:—

There is a place, down a gloomy vale,
Where burden'd nature lays her nasty tail;
Ten thousand pilgrims thither do resort
For ease, disease, for lechery and sport.
—*Works.*

Bath, which has given its name to various things for which it was supposed to be famous, as *Bath* brick, *Bath* buns, *Bath* chairs, &c., has, besides, provided the French argot with the adjective *bath* or *bate*, an equivalent of *A* 1, used in phrases such as "c'est bien *bath*," that is, excellent, first-class, tip-top. "Être de la *bate*" signifies to be lucky, fortunate. The origin of the expression is as follows:—Towards 1848 some Bath note-paper of superior quality was hawked about in the streets of Paris and sold at a low price. Thus "papier *bath*" became synonymous with excellent paper. In a short time the qualifying term alone remained, and received a general application.—*A. Barrère: Argot and Slang.*

Batha (Anglo-Indian). "Two different words are thus expressed in Anglo-Indian colloquial, and in a manner

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

confounded: (1.) Hindu *bhātā*, an extra allowance made to officers, soldiers, or other public servants when in the field or on other special occasions, also subsistence-money to witnesses or prisoners. (2.) Hindu *batta*, agio or difference in exchange, or discount on uncurrent coins."—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Bathing machines (nautical), old 10-gun brigs are so named.

Bat. mugger (Winchester), an instrument for oiling bats.

Bats (thieves' slang), old shoes or boots. In Somersetshire, low-laced boots. From *pat*, old gypsy for foot or shoe.

Battels (university), a student's account at the college kitchen. Sometimes also it is used for the goods supplied.

Buttery and kitchen cooks were adding up the sum total; bursars were preparing for *battels*.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

It is an old word, originally meaning an account. In the *Gentleman's Magazine*, August 1872, it is said to be derived from *bezahlen*, "to pay." Wright gives the derivation old English *bat*, increase, and Anglo-Saxon *dœl*, deal, portion. Another origin is that given by Dr. Brewer, *battens*, from the verb *to batten*, to feed. *Batten* is used by Shakspeare in Coriolanus, and also in Hamlet, where the prince addresses his mother, and asks her to compare his father's portrait with that of her second husband, whom she married so soon after the funeral of the first as to scandalise all Denmark.

Follow your function, go! and *batten* on cold bits.
—*Coriolanus:* Act IV. scene 5.

Could you on this fair mountain leave to feed,
And *batten* on this moor?
—*Hamlet:* Act III. scene 4.

(Oxford University), *to battel*, to be indebted to the buttery for provisions and drink, to run an account for food, &c., with the college as opposed to boarding in a private house. In De Quincey's "Life and Memoirs," p. 274, there is an allusion to this practice—"Many men *battel* at the rate of a guinea a week and wealthier men more expensive, and more careless men even *battelled* much higher;" also to reside or keep terms at the university. It has been suggested that the word is derived from an old monkish word, *patella* or *batella*, a plate.

Batter (popular), wear and tear. "Can't stand the *batter*," *i.e.*, not equal to the task; "on the *batter*" on the streets applies to prostitutes, termed in French argot "*battre* le quart" with this special meaning; also, given up to debauchery. See BATTY.

Batters (printers), a recognised term applied to bad or broken letters which are flung into the "hell box," a receptacle to hold

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

these discarded types, which are melted down eventually.

If you please, sir, . . . the devil has been putting live matter into hell instead of *batters*.—*American Newspaper.*

Batting his eyes (American), a gambler's term for men who look on but do not play.

Battle of the Nile (rhyming slang), a "tile," *i.e.*, a hat.

Battlin'-finches (bird fanciers), explained by the following quotation:—

It's all in the trainin' of 'em. I've had *battlin'-finches*—we calls 'em *battlin'-finches* when they're trained for match-singing or for pegging—wot 'ud sing in my hat as I walked along, and without being in any cage at all.—*J. Greenwood: In Strange Company.*

Battlings (public schools), weekly allowance given out to boys on Saturdays.

The business of the latter was to call us of a morning to distribute amongst us our *battlings* or pocket-money.—*Dickens: Household Words*, vol. i. p. 188.

Battner (old), an ox. "The cove has hushed the *battner*," the butcher has killed the ox; from *batten*, to fatten. According to Skeat, of Scandinavian origin, from the same root as "better."

Batty (workmen), wages, perquisites. Derived from *batta*, an extra pay given to soldiers while serving in India.—*Hotten.*

Batty-fang (provincialism), to thrash; *batty-fang* or *batter-fang*, blow; *batty-fanging*, a thrashing.

The Pastor lays on lusty *fangs*
Whitehead the Pastor *batter-fangs*.
—*Ward: England's Reformation.*

Baulk (Winchester), a hoax, a false report. (Popular), when street boys are playing at pitch and toss, the cry may be heard "head a *baulk!*" or "woman a *baulk!*" should the coin fall on its edge instead of flat on the ground.

Baum, to (Univ., American), to fawn, to flatter, to curry favour.

Bávo, bávol (gypsy), air, breath, breeze, wind. "O shillo *bávol* puderla 'dré ye hevyor"—"The cold wind is blowing through the holes." *Bávol* is sometimes used for dust.

Bawbells (old slang), the testicles, a corruption of *bobble*, a provincialism signifying stones and testicles.

Bawdy banquet (old cant), whoring.

Bawdy baskets (old slang), women who sold pins, &c., to servant girls, or exchanged these articles for eatables, and occasionally stole linen off hedges. Also applied to the itinerant vendors of obscene and ribald literature, and to a prostitute.

Many a faire lasse in London towne,
Many a *bawdie basket* borne up and down.
—*Puttenham: Art of English Poesie.*

Bawhawder (Anglo-Indian), from the Hindu *bahadŭr*, a hero, a champion. A word applied in

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Anglo-Indian to any great swell or soldier. It is a title of honour for bravery, which is found in one form or another all over the East.

There is nothing of the great *bahawder* about him.—*Athenæum*, No. 2670, p. 851: *Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Bayadere. This word, though generally supposed to be Hindu for a dancing-girl, is only a French form of the Portuguese *bailadeira*, from *bailar*, to dance.

"Come, an hour of rapture prove?"
"And what art thou?" "A *bayadere*,
And this the joyous home of Love."
—*Goethe.*

Bayard of ten toes, to ride (old slang). The old equivalent of "Shanks' mare" (German *Schusters Rappen*, cobbler's black horses), *i.e.*, to go on foot. In the old romances *Bayard* was a celebrated horse.

Bay-window (American), pregnancy, with a big belly. New York Slang Dictionary: "She has a *bow-window* to her toy-shop." The French argot expresses the same by the phrase, "Elle a un polichinelle dans le tiroir," the *tiroir* being in this phrase a "toy-shop."

B.C. has become the stereotyped exponent of a ridiculous charge of libel. A genteel young woman complained to Mr. Ingham of having been abused by a person who called her a *B.C.* The magistrate asked what *B.C.* meant, when he was told that *C.* meant "cat," but *B.* was too shocking to be uttered aloud. She consented, however, to whisper the naughty word in his worship's ear. Mr. Ingham heard the mysterious "libel," and though he could not grant the summons, *B.C.* has acquired the signification given above.—*Dr. Brewer: Dictionary of Phrase and Fable.*

(Racing), the Beacon Course, the full length (four miles, one furlong, one hundred and forty-three yards) of the racing track at Newmarket.

Beach cadgers (old), idle vagabonds dressed as sailors, who prowl about the beach at watering-places and obtain money on false pretences from persons frequenting that part.

Beach-comber (nautical), a fellow who loafs about a port to filch small things. One who prowls about the sea-shore to plunder wrecks or pick up waifs and strays of any kind. In the Pacific any kind of sailor adventurer. (Nautical), a river boatman.

Beach-tramper (nautical), coast-guard.

Beadle (freemasons), an officer answering to junior warden in a council of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

Beak, originally thieves' cant (beck), for policeman, magistrate, but now it has only the latter signification.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

I suppose you don't know what a *beak* is, my flash com-pan-i-on? . . . My eyes, how green! . . . Why, a *beak's* a madg-st'rate; and when you walk by a *beak's* order, it's not straightforerd, but always agoing up and niver a coming down agin. —*Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

The term is used by better men than thieves.

There was an old obstinate *beak*
(Who oftentimes played a queer freak),
Said, "Take her away—
Next time she must pay!"
And would not let her chief witness speak. —*Sporting Times.*

Some etymologists derive *beak* from the Saxon *beag*, a gold collar worn by civic magistrates as an emblem of authority. It seems, however, that "beck," a constable, was from a metaphor based on the literal meaning of the word *beak* or *bill*, and the circumstance that a detective is nowadays termed a "nose" comes in support of this supposition. It may also be derived from "to beckon," to intimate a command, the "move on" of the modern constable. To account for the meaning of magistrate, it may be said that the transition was easy from the humble guardian of the law to the more exalted one. Thus French malefactors gave both policeman and magistrate the common appellation of *vache*. A judge is sometimes called the "*beak* of the law."

Beaker hunter or **beak hunter** (thieves' slang), a thief who devotes his attention to the poultry yard.

Beak gander, judge of the superior court.

Beam ends (general), a nautical metaphor. A person entirely at a loss, who is "all abroad," is said to be "thrown upon his *beam ends*."

He laughed the idea down completely; and Tom abandoning it, was thrown upon his *beam-ends* again for some other solution.—*Charles Dickens: Martin Chuzzlewit.*

The French would express a state of embarrassment by "il est au bout de son latin," or "il ne sait sur quel pied danser."

The phrase also means to be in great need, when the "ballast" (money)—to continue the nautical metaphor—is gone.

When a fellow is on his *beam-ends*, as I was then, he must keep his eyes about him and have impudence enough for anything, or else he may stop and starve.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

"On one's *beam-ends*," in a sitting posture.

You get on stunningly, gig-lamps, and haven't been on your *beam-ends* more than once a minute.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Bean. This word occurs in several colloquial phrases, such as "three blue *beans* in a blue bladder," and refers to a rattle-head, a foolish fellow.

They say—
That putting all his words together,
'Tis three blue *beans* in a blue bladder.
—*Prior: Alma Cant.*

The phrase is evidently from a jester's bladder with *beans* or peas in it. It must be noted,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

as a coincidence, that the idea of a *bladder* was uppermost in the minds of those who coined the French word *fol*, fool, jester, from the low Latin *follis*, bellows or bladder.

"Not worth a *bean*," or "the black of a *bean*," corresponds to the Latin *ne hilum* (literally "not the black of a *bean*"), contracted into *nihil*. There is a Dutch proverb, "Every *bean* has its black," *i.e.*, "Every man has his faults," which gives force to the English expression.

(American slang), a *bean* is specially a five-dollar gold piece, and "*bean*-traps" is synonymous with stylish sharpers.

Formerly *bean* meant a guinea. This is possibly from the French *bien*, used in old canting among other meanings for property or money.

"Couldn't you let him pike if I come down with a thimble and ten *beans?*"

The detective shook his head.—*On the Trail.*

Bean feast (tailors), a good feast, also an annual excursion of workpeople.

Beano (printers). See 'Goose. Abbreviation of word "bean-feast," mostly used by machine-printers. Compositors generally employ the term "'goose" or "wayzgoose" for this festive event.

Beans, he don't know (American). The natives of New England, but especially of Boston, are celebrated for culture or intelligence of the highest order, and also for an extraordinary fondness for beans baked in a pot with pork—of which Fuller, the Shakspeare of divines, said that "it was a good dish which the Pythagoreans and Jews had contrived between them to spoil." The result of all this has been a saying for any ignorant person that *he don't know beans*, *i.e.*, "he is an ignoramus, or Gentile—he is not a Bostonian, he is not fond of beans, *ergo*, an outside barbarian." Others derive it from the old joke, "How many black beans make five white ones?" to which the answer is, "Five, if you peel them." He who knew how to answer this question was supposed *to know beans*. In the following extract from the *Boston Globe*, in which an effort is made to select from the local directory names which indicate articles of food, it is worth observing that the first name thought of is, of course, *Bean*, although the list is not in alphabetical order:—

"The Hub's Happy Family.—According to the city directory, there are plenty of *Beans* in Boston, one Egge, eight Pyes, a number of Onions, and one Crumb. Besides these there are three Bones, also Salt and Jelly. Seven Beers are found, and Coffee, Milk, and Teas. There is one Chicken to three Goslings and a Hawk. Boston also has a pair of Stockings, one Sock, one Cravatt, a pair of Mittens, and four Collars. Three Hatts and one Wigg complete the outfit."

The writer for the *Globe* forgot to look out for Bacon to go

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

with his *Beans*. It was, we believe, a Boston Bacon, "forenamed" Delia, who first denied to Shakspeare the authorship of his plays.

(Society), to be "full of *beans*," means to be in good form. The metaphor is borrowed from a horse being said to be full of *beans* when he is fresh and frisky. To be *beany*, is to be in a good humour, like a horse who has had a good feed. (Common), to "give *beans*," means to give a good beating.

He's the unbought and undefeated Chelsea Chicken, and I reckon that when he meets the Brazilian Gamecock—Tom Tiffin, who holds the championship of the Western Hemisphere, he'll give him *beans*. —*Moonshine*.

The term *beans* is also used for money; a "haddock of *beans*," a purse of money.

Bear (Stock Exchange), a fall, or a speculator for a fall; a man who sells stock which he does not possess in the hope of being paid not to have it delivered. His confrère the "bull" speculates in the same manner for a rise, while the "stag" operates on shares of new companies which he applies for with the intention of selling at once at a premium. The commonly accepted and very old explanation of these words is that the *bears* claw or pull the stock down, while the bulls toss it up. The "stag" is the representative of the timid speculator, trusting more to his fleetness of foot than to the balance at his banker's when the expected premium is "nil," and he is called upon to pay the allotment.

Now as the Bull had run away,
Unable for the shares to pay,
'Twas clear, as he'd no cash to spare,
The Stag then couldn't pay the *Bear;*
So when the *Bear* went for his due,
The Stag had gone to Boulogne too.

And, since the Stag had cut and run,
'Twas plain the *Bear* could pay no one;
So those to whom he money ow'd,
When they sought out the brute's abode,
Found that the *Bear*, or him they call so,
Had cut and run to Boulogne also.
—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

Current expressions in the "House" are: to operate for a *bear;* to realise a profitable *bear*. To *bear* the market is using every effort to depress the price of stock in order to buy it.

And these are the clients who sell and buy,
Who "*bear*" when low and "bull" when high,
And who pay the Como, a source of gain,
Which lightens sorrow and eases pain. . . .
And these are the men who, all forlorn,
Wander about all tattered and torn,
Who have been clients, who sell and buy,
Who "*bear*" when low and "bull" when high. —*Atkin: House Scraps.*

Dealings are now becoming more active in these stocks, and a considerable *bear* account is developing itself.—*Truth*, April 26, 1888.

When speculators become defaulters—to whatever category of the animal trinity mentioned above they may belong—they are metamorphosed into "lame ducks," and "waddle out of the alley."

"To *bear a* bob" (nautical),

used jocularly by Jack-tars for "to lend a hand;" (popular), to join in chorus with persons singing.

Beard splitter (old slang), a rake; one of the "loose fish" sort who is fond of prostitutes. The allusion is obvious.

Bearer-up (thieves' slang), a gambling cheat, more generally called a "bonnet," a commission agent, bidder or sweetener at an auction; a decoy-duck at cards who induces strangers to play with sharpers by persuasion or by seeing him win. From the legal term "bearer" in old law, one who bears down and oppresses others by vexatiously assisting a third party in maintaining a suit against them.

Bear fight (society), a rough and tumble in good part. The smoking or billiard rooms at night in country houses are the places where *bear fights* frequently occur.

Be-argered (common), drunk.

Bear-leader (common), the travelling companion or tutor of a young gentleman or nobleman, employed by the parents or guardians to watch over him and keep him from evil courses which he might fall into if left to himself. "Unlicked cub" was and still is a slang term for an undisciplined youth, and was no doubt the origin of *bear* as applied to the same kind of person. When Dr. Johnson visited Scotland and the Hebrides in his old age, accompanied by James Boswell, who has left the world so amusing an account of the prejudices of his uncouth and ungainly hero against everything he saw in Scotland, it pleased the wits of Edinburgh to call Boswell his *bear-leader*. Henry Erskine, to whom Boswell had introduced the great man, slipped a shilling into Boswell's hand, saying, "Take that, my good man; it's for the sight of your *bear!*"

Bears? are you there with your (old), are you there, or, at it again? Joe Miller says the expression originated in this way. A man disgusted with a sermon on Elisha and the bears, went on the following Sunday to another church, where he heard the sermon delivered once more by the same preacher. Irate at being thus foiled, he cried out, "*Are you there with your bears?*" The explanation is more quaint than convincing. The phrase seems to have been very common in the seventeenth century.

Another, when at the racket court he had a ball struck into his hazard, would ever and anon cry out, "Estes-vous là avec vos *ours?*" which is ridiculous in any other language but English.—*J. Howell: Forraine Travell.*

Oh, quoth they, here is an accident may save the man; *are you there with your bears?* We will quit the exercise of the House's right rather than that should be.—*Roger North: Examen.*

Bear watching, to (American), a phrase indicating suspicion.

"Jones may be a nice man, but he'll *bear watching*—you had better keep your eye on him."

"Now Brer Rabbit knowed he bes' look about right spry, cayse de creeters all had dey eyes skint an' dey years open fer him, cayse he hed setch cu'y'ous leetle ways wid him dat *he'd bar watchin'*."—*Brer Rabbit.*

Beastly (common). This word, which was once used only in a very abusive sense, has, by dint of repetition, come like awfully, or dreadful, or horrid in America, to signify "very."

Ere ladies use such *beastly* names our follies to condemn,
They should bear in mind they always find we're *beastly* fond of them.
—*Zoological Companions: A Ballad.*

They go on if I say "*beastly* jolly,"
And say that I mustn't talk slang,
And lecture me well on the folly
Of shutting the door with a bang.
—*H. Adams: Only a Little Bit Giddy.*

It is also used in society as an emphatic adjective. Everything that does not meet with approval now is *beastly:* as, "We had a *beastly* dull sermon this morning." Surely a libel on animals, as the original meaning is, "pertaining to, or having the form and nature of a *beast*." Thus, the young French lady used the word correctly when she said of her pets, "I like horses, I like dogs, I like parrots; in short, I like everything that is *beastly!*"

Beasts (American cadets). At the United States Military Academy, at West Point, new cadets are so called. More appropriate and suggestive terms—though not so forcible—are used at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst—"Snooker," "Johnny;" "bejants" (*béjaunes*) is applied to freshmen at Aberdeen University.

Beat, to (American), to cheat, or "do" one out of money in any way.

Two of these eating establishments are large and busy places, wherein two good dishes can be had for a dime (fivepence). It is said that the waiters are all athletes and skilled bouncers, who are more respected by the public than any waiters ever were before. It is like trifling with dynamite to try *to beat* one of these places out of a dinner, and the bummer who does so is described as looking and feeling as if he had been through a rolling-mill when his waiter has tired of toying with him.—*Chicago Tribune.*

To "*beat* hollow," to "*beat* into fits," to "*beat* badly," to surpass or excel. A man who is wholly exhausted is said to be "dead-*beat.*"

"That *beats* the bugs!" (American). The phrase is used to denote anything stupendous, incredible, incommensurable. Probably from an old story in which some bugs showed astounding sagacity and achieved some wonderful feat in order to baffle their tormentor and extricate themselves from a perilous position. Another version is that a man to prevent the bugs from getting to his bed, made a circle of tar round it. Then

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

they climbed up to the ceiling, and fell or jumped down on the bed. Finally, he made another circle of tar on the ceiling, and that "*beat* the bugs."

"Well, if this don't *beat* the bugs!" he'd say. "What a spot o' work this is, sartainly."—*Sam Slick.*

Beat, a (journalistic). "To have a *beat* on one," is to call on one.

On my return home I had what journalists call *a beat* on nearly all my acquaintances, to whom I had much that was strange and wonderful to tell concerning my travels.—*W. A. Paton: Down the Islands.*

(American), to "get *a beat* on one," to have the laugh of one, to take a "rise" out of.

"Great Cæsar! and we've gone to press," gasped the editor. "The afternoon papers will get *a beat* on us tomorrow."—*San Franciscan.*

Beat daddy mammy, to (old military), to practise the elements of drum beating.

Beat the Dutch, to (popular). *That beats the Dutch*, is said of any startling statement or incredible fact. To beggar description or stagger belief. Originally used to express extreme stupidity and obstinacy, a Dutchman being popularly represented as a phlegmatic person whom nothing could move.

Beaten down to bed-rock (American), reduced to the last extremity.

Some had died, others were dying; none were well, and all were, as they tersely put it, *beaten down to bed-rock.*—*Phillipps-Wolley: Trottings of a Tenderfoot.*

Beater-cases (obsolete), shoes or boots; also called formerly "bowles;" more modern are the "trotter-cases" (termed "trottinets," or "trottins" in French slang), "grubbers, carts, beetle-crushers, crab-shells, and hock-dockies." Thieves and roughs in a poetical mood have given them the name of "daisy-roots," while mashers ruefully talk of their pointed patents as "excruciators." A policeman on his beat is said by the roughs to exercise his "plates of meat." The much despised spring side boots officers term "Jemimas."

Beaters (thieves), feet, an abbreviation of *dew-beaters*, a slang term for feet, and, in Norfolk, coarse oiled shoes that resist the dew. "To pad one's *beaters*," to walk, to walk away.

Pluck me some panam and caftar, Bill, for I want to pad my *beaters.*—*New York Slang Dictionary.*

The earlier word is "batters" or "bats," which represents the original "pats." In gypsy, *tompats* is in common with canting a word for feet. Hindu, *tal-pat*, the sole.

Beating the booby (nautical), the beating of the hands and arms across the chest, to warm oneself in cold weather. An older synonymous expression is "beating Jonas."

Beating the road (American), travelling in a railway train

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

without paying. There are many ways of doing this known to the American "dead beat," adventurer, and tramp. One is to pretend to be an official employed on some other railroad, another to make a private arrangement with the conductor or an employé to be allowed to travel in a freight car, a third is to simply hide in the freight.

The problem was—twelve or thirteen hundred miles to be overpassed without paying one's fare over the rails. This would have been an easy task to many, and some months later it would scarcely have caused me so much anxiety, but I was then inexperienced, and somewhat green in the matter of passes, which are often to be obtained by a plausible man of good address, and versed in the methods of *beating the road*, or, more literally, of cheating the company.—*Roberts: The Western Avernus.*

English roughs and thieves term this kind of cheating "doing a duck," generally managed by hiding under the seat of a carriage.

Beau. This is a word in very general use in America to signify a lover or an especially devoted attendant. From this the verb to *beau*, to *beau* about. In Queen Anne's time the *beau* meant rather an elegant man than a lover.

The Southern girl is more frivolous-minded than her Northern sister; she cares more for *beaux* and ribbons, a dance and a laugh. She loves the sunshine and stroll in the park with no definite end in view except perhaps a smile and a bow from the young men of her acquaintance.—*Boston Record.*

Beau-nasty (old), a fop who, though in exterior finely dressed, is dirty and slovenly in person and habits.

Beautifiers (popular). Women who, like Madame Rachel, profess to make people "young and beautiful for ever." Of late years these persons have become common, and have many customers not only in the demi-monde, but even among poor girls.

Take my advice, girls; good complexions
Only are gained by early strolls,
Heed not the *beautifier's* directions,
Use not her dear cosmetic rolls.
—*Ballad: Strolling Down the Lanes.*

Beau trap (old), a well-dressed sharper who used to lie in wait for country visitors.

Beauty-sleep (common), a nap before midnight.

Are you going? It is not late. . . . A medical man, who may be called up at any moment, must make sure of his *beauty-sleep.*—*Kingsley: Two Years Ago.*

And would I please to remember that I had roused him (the hostler) up at night; and the quality always made a point of paying four times over for a man's loss of his *beauty-sleep*. I replied that his loss of *beauty-sleep* was rather improving to a man of so high a complexion, &c.—*Blackmore: Lorna Doone.*

Beavers (Winchester), originally, leave to go out in the afternoon, when none but prefects were allowed to wear hats. Afterwards the appellation denoted an intermission of half-an-hour in the course of the afternoon on whole school days, when

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

school began at two o'clock. The term is now obsolete. A *beaver* (nautical), is a helmet in general, but particularly that part which lets down to allow of the wearer's drinking.

Beck, beur (old cant), a constable. In Dutch slang, *bekaan* means arrested, imprisoned.

The ruffin cly the nab of the Harman *beck*
If we mawnd Pannam, lap or ruff-peck.
—*Thomas Dekker.*

Bed (thieves' slang), put to *bed* with a shovel, dead and buried.

Played out they lay, it will be said,
A hundred stretches hence;
With shovels they were put to *bed*
A hundred stretches since.
—*A Hundred Stretches Hence: New York Slang Dictionary.*

Bedder (universities), a bedmaker, a species of charwoman now nearly extinct in Oxford, but flourishing at Cambridge.

Bed-fagot (common), a contemptuous term for a woman, but more specially applied to a prostitute. A provincialism for a bedfellow.

Bed filling (army), lying down after dinner to rest and digest.

Bed-house, a house of assignation. One where beds and rooms are hired by the hour or half-day, &c. An institution which has spread with incredible rapidity of late years in England and America, since the suppression or gradual disappearance of brothels, so that, according to trustworthy information, where there formerly existed one of the latter, there are now from ten even to twenty of the former. The repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act has given a great impetus to the establishment of *bed-houses.*

Bedoozle (American), to confuse, bewilder, the result being that a man is "all abroad," or "flabbergasted."

Bed-post (common), in the "twinkling of a *bed-post*," in a moment, as quick as lightning, in a jiffy, or as rapidly as a staff can be twinkled or turned. A more modern expression extensively used is, in the "twinkling of a pike-staff," which explains itself. *Bed-post,* in this case, seems to have replaced bed-staff, a wooden pin stuck formerly on the sides of the bedstead to keep the clothes from slipping on either side, and which might be wielded as a stick or staff when a brute thought it necessary to chastise his better half. *Nous avons changé tout cela,* and now the improvised staff has been superseded by the poker, varied by an application of hob-nailed boots.

Bed-rock (American), to get on the *bed rock,* not to be able to go lower or to abate. Used in this instance: "What is the price of that?" "Six dollars." "Is it *bed-rock* price?" *i.e.,* is it your lowest price. *Bed-rock*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

pieces, the last coins in one's almost empty purse; probably a miner's phrase.

Bee (American), a meeting, generally a merrymaking, but with a practical or beneficial object. Thus there are apple-bees for paring apples, husking-bees for husking, raising-bees to "raise" houses, and spelling-bees. Probably an abbreviation of the old word "bidding," or the Dutch *bied*, influenced by *bee* as a type of industry. "Bidding," pronounced *bee*-ding, meant an invitation a century ago.

Harry cum parry, when will you marry?
When apples and pears are ripe.
I'll come to your wedding without any bidding,
And stay with the bride all the night.
—*Mother Goose's Nursery Rhymes for Boys and Girls* (Standard Edition).

A "chopping-*bee*" is thus described in a western magazine: "Once a clearing was attempted on a large scale. It was for the site of a public institution. The inhabitants within a radius of ten miles were invited to a "chopping-*bee*." Each one brought his axe and day's provisions. No spirituous liquors were allowed. The work was ordered by an elected marshal of the day. The front rank of trees, ten rods in width, were chopped partially through on either side, then the succeeding ones in like manner for a space of perhaps twenty rods. Then the last rank was felled simultaneously by the united force, when, with a crash increasing to a thundering volume, it bore down on the next, till all lay prostrate. And thus for three days did this volunteer war against the forest progress."

Bee-bee (Anglo-Indian), Hindu, from the Persian *bī bī*, once applied to English ladies, who are now called Mem Sahib. It is still often used by native servants in addressing European maid-servants. —*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

A Hindu concubine.

But the society of the station does interfere in such cases, and though it does not mind *bee-bees* or their friends, it rightly taboos him who entertains their white rivals.—*William Howard Russell: My Diary in India in the Year* 1858–59.

(Gypsy), an aunt. Sometimes applied respectfully and affectionately to any middle-aged woman. "The title *Bibi* is in Persian the same as among us *señora* or *doña*." —*Teixeira: Relacion de Hormuz*, A.D. 1611.

Beef (Australian convicts' slang), "stop thief!" introduced by the convicts transported thither. A feature of thieves' cant, and indeed of slang generally, is its fondness for punning and rhyming, *e.g.*, "cobbler," applied to the last sheep that is shorn, "slang-whang," and "Bolt-in-turns." Thief was canted into *beef* because they rhymed.

Beef—stop thief. To *beef* a person is to raise a hue and cry after him in order to get him stopped.—*Vaux's Memoirs.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(English thieves' slang), to *beef* it, or to give hot *beef*, is to give chase, pursue, raise a halloo and cry.

I guyed, but the reeler he gave me hot *beef*,
And a scuff came about me and hollered;
I pulled out a chive, but I soon came to grief,
And with screws and a james I was collared.
—*The Referee.*

(Nautical), a figurative term for strength — "more *beef!*" more men on; (common), "*beef* up!" or "put your *beef* to it!" An ejaculation meant as a request to use one's strength, to use one's muscles to good account.

(Popular), to be dressed like "Christmas *beef*," to be in one's best clothes.

Man's poor heart in ecstasy
Will very often beat,
When the tart is young.
. . . . . .
'Tis then he'll go and dress himself
Like unto Christmas *beef*,
When the tart is young!
—*When the Tart is Young.*

Beef-headed (popular), stupid, dull as an ox. *Beef-willed* is a provincialism with a like signification. "*Beef*-witted," that is, dull, thick-headed; "having no more wit than an ox" is a term used by Shakspeare.

Beef it, to (provincialism). *To beef it* is to indulge in a meal of butchers' meat; it only occurs amongst the lower and poorer classes.

Beefment (thieves), on the *beefment*, on the look-out.

Beef stick (army), the bone of the meat in the day's rations. A soldier is allowed, at home, three-quarters of a pound of meat, including bone, and when the day's mess dinner is cut up, little but the *stick* remains for those last served.

Beef straight (American). When a man has nothing but beef for a meal, and must eat it without bread, vegetables, &c., it is *beef straight*. The same term is applied to any other kind of food *per se*.

Beef to the heels, like a Mullingar heifer. Mr. H. J. Byron says: "The expression *beef to the heels* is first found, I believe, in the Irish saying, 'A Waterford heifer, *beef to the heels*.'"

Dolly was not a fine woman, as they say, at all; not *beef to the heels*, by any means; in a grazier's eye she would have had no charm whatsoever.—*Rhoda Broughton: Cometh up as a Flower.*

Beefy (common), unduly thick, commonly said of women's ankles; also rich, juicy, plenteous. To take the whole pool at loo, or to have any particular run of luck at cards generally, is said by players to be very *beefy* (Hotten). *Beefy* is also applied to a bloated, red-faced person.

Bee in the bonnet (common). To have a *bee in one's bonnet*, is to be odd, eccentric, fantastical,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

whimsical, or half-crazy. It is supposed to be a peculiarly Scottish phrase, because Scotsmen wear "bonnets," and Englishmen do not. Its use, however, is not confined to Scotland, but was known in England in the seventeenth century, and is still common. It occurs in a song by Herrick, entitled the "Mad Maiden," of the date of 1648:—

"For pity, sir, find out that *bee*,
Which bore my love away;
I'll seek him in your *bonnet* brave,
I'll seek him in your eyes."

A friend speaking to an Edinburgh lady of a late eminent professor in the University, said he was an excellent man, but he had *a bee in his bonnet*. "Don't say that," replied the lady, assuming a look and tone of reproof. "You under-rate him. *A bee in his bonnet!* Why, he has a whole hive of *bees* in it!" The French have the corresponding expression "avoir un hanneton"—a may-bug.

Been in the sun (popular), intoxicated, alluding to the flushed countenance of one who has been drinking heavily.

Been measured for a new umbrella (American), said originally of a man that nothing fitted him but his *umbrella*. An old joke, reproduced by Artemus Ward, who took his own generally wherever he found it.

"Wall, about this time there was a man in an adjacent town who had a green cotton umbrella."

"Did it fit him well? Was it custom-made? Was he measured for it?"

"Measured for what?" said Abe.

"The umbreller?"—*Artemus Ward.*

Beeno (gypsy), born. "Ki sos o tikno *beeno?*"—"Where was the babe born?"

Been to Bungtown. Been to Boston (American). It is reported that instances have been known in which ladies living in the country have gone "to town" for the purpose of meeting with lovers, or making them, "in loco secreto." So it is said of one not quite above suspicion, that *she has been there*, and should a foreigner not understanding the phrase ask where, the answer may be, *to Bungtown*. In Philadelphia it is said of a very fast woman, that she has been to, or comes from Scranton, a town in Pennsylvania.

Beer barrel (pugilistic), the body.

That draws the bung from the *beer barrel*, I'm a thinkin'.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Beerslinger (American), a term for a barman in a lager-beer "saloon" or tavern. It originated in Philadelphia in 1848–49, about which time lager-beer was first brewed in America. The word "slingers" had previously been commonly applied for at least forty years to other barmen, who were often spoken of as "whiskey-slingers" (a punning term). "Rum-slingers" or "gin-slingers," derived in this instance probably from gin-sling. In America "sling" is

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

a very common expression, indicating to be engaged with, or to tackle, attack, &c. Hence "hash-slinger," one who eats at an ordinary table, or one who is eating in any way. "Ink-slinger," a writer. "Don't sling your sass at me," means give me no more of your impudence. "Jerk" and "jerker" are in every way exact synonyms for "sling" and "slinger," *e.g.*, a beer-jerker.

Beeswax (common), poor, soft cheese, sometimes called "sweaty-toe cheese," the French equivalent of which is "pied de facteur." Applied to persons whom it is difficult to get rid of. Friends conversing together seeing one of this kind coming towards them, frequently say, "Here's old *Beeswax*, let's be off."

Beeswaxers (Winchester College). Thick-soled, laced-up boots are so called, no doubt from being used in damp or snowy weather, after having been besmeared with beeswax, grease, or dubbin, in order to make them water-tight.

Bee-sweetening (American), honey, more jargon than slang.

I was once a guest in a log-cabin, in a remote part of Indiana, in 1864. There were on the supper-table three kinds of sweetening for the coffee, and yet none of them were made from the cane. "Will you have," asked my host, "*bee-sweetenin'*, tree-sweetenin', or sorghum?" *Bee-sweetenin'* was honey, tree-sweetenin' was maple sugar and maple molasses, while sorghum was the coarse molasses made from a kind of Chinese maize.

Beetle-crushers (common), a person's foot. More frequently used with the sense of foot of large proportions, large flat foot. Also shoe or boot.

Yes, but what horrible boots! whoever could have had the atwocity to fwame such *beetle-crushers.—Rhoda Broughton: Red as a Rose is She.*

The expression was first used in *Punch*, in one of Leech's caricatures. A man with "extrémités canailles," as the French have it, is said to be blessed with "*beetle-crushers* and mutton fists." (Army), an infantry soldier is derisively termed *beetle-crusher* by the cavalry, varied sometimes to "mud-crusher," a near equivalent of the French "pousse-caillou."

Who wouldn't be a millionaire,
A-rolling in his riches?
Though dolor-ous the load they bear—
Who wouldn't be a millionaire?
I own the rich man's shoes to wear
My *beetle-crusher* itches!
Who wouldn't be a millionaire,
A-rolling in his riches?
—*Funny Folks.*

Before-tim (pidgin), formerly, once, previously, ere now, of old.

Old How-qua, he one piecee velly largey Hong machin (merchant), sartin *before-tim* you plenty healee (have heard of) allo-same How-qua.—*How-qua and the Pearls.*

Beggarbolts (nautical), a term formerly applied to any missiles thrown from a galley-slaves' boat at an attacking force.

Beggars' velvet (common), particles of down shaken from a

bed, and left to accumulate under furniture by the negligence of housemaids. A more befitting term is "sluts'-wool," as reflecting on the lazy habits of the maid.

Begum, a rich widow.

Beilby's ball (old), an old Bailey executioner. "You will dance at *Beilby's ball*, where the sheriff pays for the music," from the name of the executioner in the time of Jonathan Wild.

Be in it, to (common), like the American phrase "to be on it." But the English expression seems to denote being in trouble, "I'm always in it."

> And I *was in it*, fairly in it!
> I fell in the box of eggs and there I quickly stuck.
> I *was in it*, fairly in it!
> I *was in it*, for it's just my luck.
> —*Song.*

Bejant, new student at Aberdeen University. A corruption of the French *béjaune* (*bec jaune*), unsophisticated young man, compared to an unfledged blackbird. The term is applied to the first or lowest class, the second being the "semi-*bejants*," the third the "tertians," and the fourth the "magistrands."

Belay (nautical), stop. "*Belay* that yarn," cease talking, we have had enough of it.

Belch (old), beer.

Belcher (roughs), a blue bird's-eye handkerchief.

Belial (Oxford), Balliol College.

Bell (tramps), a song.

Bellerin (American), talking loudly, crying aloud.

> 'Twas up among de mountains
> All in de woods an' canes;
> A nigger came a *bellerin*
> An' rushin' throo de wanes.
> —*Lucy Neal.*

I hed a plaguey good ol' musket that I'd brung with me from my hum in Jarsey, an' I'd polished an' iled it till it was slick as a whistle, an' I kinder thought I'd open Jeff's eyes a leetle ef I got any kind of a chance to p'int it at one o' them air deer Jeff 'd ben a *bellerin* so much 'bout.—*New York Sun.*

Bellows (pugilistic), the lungs; "bellows to mend" was formerly said of a pugilist when winded, and generally of a person out of breath.

Bellows, bellowses (American), the heaves in a horse.

And when old Tom Jefferson sent for me to go to Washington, I was still here with fifteen children and as good a hoss as any man ever sid, only she was blind and had the *bellusses*.—*Uncle Steve's Stump Speech.*

(Nautical), an old hand at the *bellows*, a man up to his work, to his duty. A "fresh hand at the *bellows*" is said when a gale increases.

Bellowsed (thieves) was said of one who had "lumped the lighter" or had been "lagged," *i.e.*, transported. As *lagged* is a gypsy word, meaning bound or tied together (Hindu *lāgárná*), it is probable that *bellowsed* is the common provincial word *belost*, which has precisely the same signification.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Bellowser (pugilistic), a blow that knocks the wind out of the "bellows" or lungs. (Old cant), a sentence of transportation for life; that is, to the convict's last breath when his lungs or "bellows" cease to play.

Bellows to mend (pugilistic and athletes). For definition, see BELLOWS.

To one gentleman he would pleasantly observe, as he tapped him on the chest, "*Bellows for you to mend*, my buck!"—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Bell swagger (old), a noisy, bullying fellow.

Bell-topper, that kind of hat known in England as a "chimney-pot," a "silk hat," a "high hat," a "top hat," a "*bell-topper*," a bell-shaped top hat. The term is, we believe, not unknown to hatters in England, but in Australia it is universally used, often even by refined people. White ones are very much commoner than black in Australia and America, on account of the higher temperature.

When the writer was about to land at Port Melbourne he was warned "a man is of no account in Melbourne without a white *bell-topper*." Soon after this he went to the Geelong races and ordered a dozen oysters at a stall. The man gave him thirteen by mistake. "Stop," he said, "you're giving me too many." The man who was next to him—quite a common man and a little drunk—turned round and addressed him sententiously, "A cove with a white *bell-topper* should never be mean."

Belly-chere (old cant), food.

Belly-chete (old cant), an apron.

Bellyful (old), a sound drubbing or thrashing.

Belly-go-firster (old slang), the first blow, usually given in the belly.

Belly hedges (Shrewsbury School), an obstruction of a moderate character in steeplechases run by the boys.

Belly plea, the (old), the old slang term to describe the practice of women condemned to death pleading pregnancy in mitigation or deferment of sentence. This custom is alluded to in the "Beggar's Opera." In most jails there were men termed "child getters," who made a practice of qualifying women to put forward such a plea.

Belly-timber (common), food; termed also "prog," "grub."

Belly up, a facetious way of alluding to a woman being in the family way.

"So help my greens, if our Sal ain't bin and got her *belly up*."

Belly-vengeance (common), sour beer that will give the stomach-ache.

Below the belt (tailors), unfair or mean, from an expression used in boxing or fencing.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Belt, belt tinker, bellows (tailors), a very roughly made garment.

Belting (nautical), a beating, before the rattan or cat-o'-nine-tails came into use.

Belting society (legal), a debating society, formerly held in the Inns of Court.

Beltinker (popular), to give a man *beltinker*, to thrash him.

Then they begin using bad language. They swear they'll give me *beltinker* if they ever hear me again.—*Ballad.*

Some of the synonyms are "to give one Jessie, a tanning, a hiding, a walloping, a jacketting, a dusting, to walk into, to quilt, to set about," the operation being sometimes pushed to "thrashing one within an inch of his life," or "knocking into a cocked hat."

Belvidere (popular), a handsome man, an Apollo. Pronounced *belvy-dear.*

The ladies say I am bewitching,
In fact I'm a real *belvidere.*
In bar-room, in parlour, in kitchen,
Oh, this is the language I hear.
—*The Beautiful Major: Ballad.*

Bemuse, to (common), to fuddle oneself with drink.

Ben (journalistic and theatrical), short for benefit.

BENEFIT TO JACK BURKE.—This well-known boxer, who has had the misfortune to break his leg in two places, is to be accorded a benefit at the Mason's Hall, Bow Common Lane, on Monday, December 5. A capital programme has been organised, and we hope that his fellow pro's will rally round him on the occasion, and give his *ben* a good send off. M.C.'s Jack Fay, and T. Sands.—*Sporting Life.*

(Common), an abbreviation for "Benjamin," a waistcoat (see BENJAMIN); to stand *ben*, to treat one to liquor.

Benamee (Anglo-Indian, also old gypsy), anonymous. Hindu, *bēnāmī.*

A term specially applied to documents of transfer and other contracts in which the name entered as that of one of the chief parties is not that of the person interested. —*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Benat, benar (old cant), better.

Ben cull (thieves), a friend, a comrade, a "pal." *Cull* meant formerly a man, a fool; *ben*, an abbreviation of the cant term *bene*, good.

Bend (common), "that's above my bend," *i.e.*, beyond my power, too expensive or too difficult to perform (Hotten). This has nothing in common with the "Grecian bend," an affected style of walking assumed by some ladies as a flattery to royalty, in keeping with the "Alexandra limp."

Bender (common), a sixpence, so called because it is easily bent; also "kick," a very old word. In old cant "half-a-borde," and now a "tanner," and in thieves' lingo a "cripple."

"What will you take to be paid out?" said the butcher. "The regular chummage is two-and-six; will you take three bob?" "And a *bender*," suggested the clerical gentleman. —*Charles Dickens: Pickwick Papers.*

(American), a frolic, relaxation, spree, or "party." Probably

from the Dutch *bende*, an assembly, party, or band.

I led her through the festal hall,
Her glance was soft and tender;
She whispered gently in my ear,
"Say, Mose, ain't this a *bender*?"
—*Putnam's Monthly* (*Bartlett*, p. 29).

Hans Breitmann joined de Turners,
November in de Fall,
Und dey gived a boorsten *bender*
All in de Turner Hall.
—*Breitmann and the Turners.*

Also a leg.

Young ladies are not allowed to cross their *benders* in school. — *Longfellow: Kavanagh.*

(Thieves and roughs), the arm; over the *bender* means over the arm, over the left, *i.e.*, not really. In the same way schoolboys said, "I'll do it—fain," meaning that they will not.

Vaux, in his Memoirs, says: —"*Bender* is an ironical word used in conversation by flash people; as where one party affirms or professes anything which the other believes to be false or insincere, the latter expresses his incredulity by exclaiming *bender!* or if one asks another to do an act which the latter considers unreasonable or impracticable, he replies, 'Oh, yes; I'll do it—*bender*,' meaning by the addition of the last word that in fact he will do no such thing."

Bendigo (common), nearly obsolete. A fur cap named from a noted pugilist, who is said to have got his nickname from his skill at "ducking." This "muscular Christian," some fifteen years ago, became a convert and preacher.

Bendover (Winchester) is to place yourself in such a posture as to give one so disposed an opportunity of "spanking" you.

Bene, ben (old cant), good.

A gage of *ben* Rom-bouse,
In a bousing-ken of Rom-vile,
Is benar than a Caster, Peck, pannam, lay,
Or popler, which we mill in dense-a-vile. —*Thomas Middleton.*

"Stowe your *bene*" is thus explained—

"What, stowe your *bene*, cofe, and cut benar wydds."—*Harman: Caveat.*

I.e., "What, hold your peace, good fellow, and speak better words."

A *bene mort*, a pretty woman.

Oh! where will be the culls of the bing,
A hundred stretches hence?
The *bene morts*, who sweetly sing,
A hundred stretches hence?
—*A Hundred Stretches Hence.*

Bene darkmans (old cant), good night.

Bene flakes (old cant), bill-forgers.

Beneship (old cant), very well.

Ben-flake (thieves), a steak at a "slap-bang," *i.e.*, a low cooking-shop or eating-house.

Beng (gypsy), devil, flame; *bengalo*, *bengescro*, devilish. Also *bengis* or *bengus*. *Bengis* his zē (zee), (May) the devil (be in) his heart. Paspati, also Pott. *Thes.* ii. 407, arguing from mere resemblance of sound, derives *beng* from *benk*, a frog, or *beng*, a frog, or *benga*, squint-eyed in Hindu. But as *bengel* in German and

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Dutch means a mischievous, evil fellow or scamp, there is probably some Aryan root which would furnish a more direct connection with the evil principle.

"As if yuv had dikked o' *beng* te sā,"—"As if he had seen the devil and all."
—*English Gypsy Songs.*

Perhaps it comes from *beq*, Hindu, but of Mongol origin, meaning lord or master. The Spanish gypsies call the devil by a similar term, *el buen baron*, the good baron or lord.

Bengi (military), an onion. Origin obscure, but it may be referred to the Hindustani *beng* or *bhang*, from its pungent taste; or again, it may be a form of the Hindu *bhindi* (often pronounced like *bengi*), the okra of America, also called *bendy* and *bámia*. One variety of it is about the size of an onion.

Bengy, a waistcoat, is from the gypsy *bangri*.

Benighted, the (Anglo-Indian), a term applied in raillery to the inhabitants of Madras by their envious neighbours.

Benjamin or **benjie** (common), a waistcoat or coat, formerly a "Joseph." Possibly an allusion to Joseph's garment left in Madame Potiphar's grasp. Dr. C. Mackay says it was so named from a once celebrated advertising tailor in London.

(Nautical), a low crowned straw hat, with a very broad brim.

Ben joltræm (old), poor and coarse food, such as agricultural men, navigators, and men working on roads, have to put up with.

Bens (American), tools, styled "alls" by English workmen.

Benvenue (printers), obsolete. This was a kind of entrance-fee paid by the workman to the "chapel" on entering a new office. Equivalent to "standing his footing." Derived from the French apparently, *bienvenue*, welcome, footing, used in the expression "payer la bienvenue."

Beong (costermongers), a shilling; in old cant a "borde" and now a "bob;" from the Italian *bianco*, white, also a silver coin. An equivalent for this is to be found in most slangs. For instance, in Dutch thieves' slang, *witten;* in German, *blanker;* Italian, *biancon*. Formerly French silver coins were termed *blancs*.

Beray (old cant), dung, dirty.

Berk, burk, pl. **berkia** (gypsy), breast, breasts.

Bero (gypsy), a ship or boat; *beromengro*, a sailor; *beromescro*, pertaining to a ship, naval. "Ghiom adré a béro"—"I went in a ship," in common jargon "mandy-jawed (or jassed), adré a *bero*."

Berthas (Stock Exchange), London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company, ordinary stock.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Dear *Bertha*, I have not forgotten,
She's really a feature in "rails;"
And tho' some of my tips have been rotten,
I landed some money in "mails."
—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

Besh (gypsy), a year. Continental gypsy, *bersh*. *Dui besh*, two years.

Beshāva (gypsy), I sit, common form *besh; Besh tu alay*, sit down; *beshella*, he sits. "Who *besh* in ye pus, around the yag" —"Who sit in the straw around the fire."—*G. Borrow: Lavengro.*

Beshermengro (gypsy), one who sits, a magistrate.

Bespeak-night (common), a night in theatrical performance set apart for the special benefit of some actor or actress—a benefit in modern phraseology.

Best (common), to *best* a man, to have the better of one in any way.

And this great party, the noble army of consumers, would cry out at any attempt to raise the price of the commodity for the benefit of the producers, whom, by a curious perversion of mind, they consider their natural enemies, to be *bested* at every possible opportunity.—*Evening News.*

To cheat.

When I went to the fence he *bested* me because I was drunk, and only gave me £8, 10s. for the lot.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

(Thieves), to give in *best*, to affect repentance.

If when in the magisterial presence he contorts his countenance in affected agony, it is merely because he perceives from his worship's tone that he wishes to agonise him, and is shrewd enough to know that to "give in *best*," as he would express it, is the way to get let off easy.—*J. Greenwood: The Seven Curses of London.*

Bester (popular), one who gets the better. Also a low betting cheat, a blackleg.

Best girl (American), the preferred one; a sweetheart.

"Did you ever hear," asked my *best girl*, as we drove along Delaware Avenue, past the elegant grounds of Jonathan Scoville, "why Mr. Scoville never built that costly residence he had planned?"—*Detroit Free Press.*

Besting (running), to get the better of any one by unfair means.

Besting the pistol (running), where a runner gets the best of the starter, and is away on his journey when the pistol goes off.

Bet a seed, to (American), to bet the smallest chip or counter, *i.e.*, stake, in the game of poker.

Be there, to (common), to be in one's element, to be knowing at a thing.

I very soon began to preach and prate,
And with the sisters played some funny pranks,
I was so good at nobbling with the plate,
They soon made me captain of the ranks;
And often when our meetings were dispersed,
With sister Jane I'd offer up a prayer,
I'd such a jolly spree when she took me home to tea,
For I know what it is *to be there!*—*Song.*

Better than a dig in the eye with a blunt stick (common). The expression is used to denote a thing of little value.

Betting round (racing), laying fairly and equally against nearly all the horses in a race, so that

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

no great risk can be run. Commonly called "getting round."

Betty (thieves), a skeleton key or picklock, termed also tivvil, twist, screw; all *Betty*, it is all up! past recovery.

Bet, you (American), you may be sure of it, you may safely bet that it is true.

We reached the settlement of *Ubet*. The name had been selected from the slang phrase so laconically expressive of "You may be sure I will." . . . A night marauder took advantage of a good moon to place a ladder against a window, hoping to secure the property of a gentleman asleep within the chamber. As he lifted the window and put his head in the gentleman woke up, and with great promptness presented his six-shooter, shouting out, "You get!" With equal promptness the detected thief exclaimed, "*You bet!*" and slid down the ladder,—*et procul in tenuem ex oculis evanuit auram.—Alex. Stavely Hill: From Home to Home.*

Bever (obsolete), a slight repast between meals, an afternoon lunch, a meal eaten in a hurry. It was in use at the English and American universities. At the former the *bevers* consisted of a portion of bread and an allowance of beer laid out in the hall in the afternoon, a break of a quarter of an hour in school time being allowed in summer for this refreshment. The peculiar nature of the repast was a relic of the old founders' days. Old English *bever*, a drinking; from the old French *bevre*, to drink.

Bevy or **bevali** (common), beer; abbreviation of beverage. Gypsy *pivi*, drink; Slavonian *pivo*, beer. Other appellations for beer are "gatter, oil of barley, bug juice, ponjello"; and were it the best of Bass's it is termed by boarding-school boys "swipes."

Bewer (tinkers' slang), a woman. "Misli to my *bewer*"—"Write (*i.e.*, go or send) to my woman." Young *bew'r*, a girl.

B flats (popular), bugs.

Mrs. B. beheld one night a stout negro of the flat-backed tribe, known among comic writers as the *B flats*, stealing up toward the head of the people.—*Household Words.*

Bheesty (Anglo-Indian), a water-carrier. "The universal word in the Anglo-Indian households of Northern India for the domestic who supplies the family with water, carrying it in a mussuck or goat's skin on his back. No class of men is so diligent, so faithful, unobtrusive, and so uncomplaining as the *bihistis*."—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Here comes a seal carrying a porpoise on its back. No! it is only our friend the *bheesty*.—*In my Indian Garden.*

Bible (nautical), a hand axe; also a square piece of freestone to grind the deck with sand in cleaning it; a small holystone, so called from seamen using them kneeling.—*Admiral Smyth.*

Bible carrier (common), a person who sells songs without singing them (Hotten).

Bible-clerk (Winchester), a college prefect who has to read the lessons in chapel, to keep order in school, to open the doors for masters, to keep up

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the fire, and assist at flogging. He holds his office for a week at a time. *Bible-clerks* come into course now (since "Cloisted time" 1872) on Wednesday instead of Saturday. A *Bible-clerk's* scob is the first "scob" (box spelt backwards, phonetically) on the right hand as you enter school. It bears a brass plate with the inscription engraved on it: "Τω ἀει ἀναγνωστη"—"To each successive reader," because *Bible-clerks* used to read the lessons at meals.

Bible-pounder (popular), a parson; termed also a "white-choker," a "devil-dodger," a "cushion-smiter."

Bibling (Winchester), a flogging consisting of six cuts on the small of the back administered by the head or second master. The term is obsolete. The *bibling*-rod was an instrument with which the punishment of *bibling* was administered. It consisted of a handle terminated by four apple-tree twigs.

Underneath is the place of execution where delinquents are "bibled." It need hardly be said that it (the rod) is applied in the ordinary fashion, six cuts forming what is technically called a *bibling*, on which occasion the Bible-clerk introduces the victim; and four being the sum of a less terrible operation called a "scrubbing." —*Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.*

Biddable (common), docile, obedient to order, tractable.

Biddy (Winchester College), a bath in college which was filled every morning for Prefects, &c., by the junior man in each "gallery" or bed-room. The origin of the word is possibly due to the French *bidet*, an article of bed-room furniture for the use of ladies, more common on the Continent than in England. (American), an Irish servant girl.

Biff (Americanism), to give a "*biff* in the jaw," to strike one in the face. In England to "fetch you a wipe in the mug," or "give you a bang in the chops," are choice. *Biff* is from the provincial English *befet* or *buffet*, a blow; old French *bufét*. Possibly Anglo-Saxon *bifjan*, to shake.

Biffin (popular), "my *biffin*" is a friendly appellation.

"Ain't that up to Dick, my *biffin?*" "I never said it warn't."—*J. Greenwood: Under the Blue Blanket.*

Big as all out o' doors, a humorous Americanism for anything unusually or abnormally large.

The infarnal villain! Tell me who he is, and if he was *as big as all out-doors* I'd walk into him.

He is looking *as big as all out-doors* jist now, and is waitin' for us to come to him.—*Sam Slick: The Clockmaker.*

Big-bird (theatrical), to "get the *big-bird*," to be hissed. The *bird* is supposed to be, and is very often, a goose. French actors call hissing "appeler Azor," this being the usual name for a dog.

NATIONAL BIBLIOTHEK OF INDIA

Big bugs (American), an expression for great people, people of consequence, aristocrats. Bartlett thinks that this word suggests some anecdote which would be "worth finding out." There is no lack in American newspapers of anecdotes explaining the origin of popular phrases, but unfortunately about ninety-nine in a hundred of them are manufactured afterwards by some ingenious humourist to suit the case. The following, which is of recent origin, might easily pass for one of these valuable originals. Those which have already appeared on *Chestnut*, sworn to by as many authorities as those cited by Autolycus, would fill a chapter.

It puts me in mind of a story once heard from an old man. He was speaking of a rich neighbour who was going for the first time to New Orleans. "Yes," he said, "Mr. Jones is a mighty big man round here, but he won't stand a chance to shine down there. He'll be like the bug who lived on a pumpkin, and because he was twice as big as any other bug round there, he allowed he was the largest insect on earth. But one day there came two or three of them big gold beetles, and lit on the pumpkin in all their original splendour, and Mr. Pumpkin Bug jest turned pale and crawled down underneath. "Children," says he, "I wouldn't hev thought it, but there's *bigger bugs* in the world than what I be!"—*Queer Bits.*

While my wife goes out washin', an
cleanin' *big bug* houses,
I'll have a shop down-town for renovatin
trousers.—*A Bootblack's Soliloquy.*

In the Australian lingo *big bugs* has also the meaning of man of importance.

"What's your brother doing?"

"Oh! he's an awful *big bug* now. The Minister of Railways has got him a billet in the Civil Service."

"What's the billet?"

"Railway-porter at Lal Lal."—*Victorian Comic Paper.*

Big country (sport), the open country.

In the roomy stalls of the stables you make the acquaintance of Donative, who bore his lord and master to victory over three miles of *big country*.—*The World.*

Big dog with a brass collar, the, the principal or head of a concern, or the biggest "wig" of a place.

Big fellow (Australian Blackfellow's lingo), large, a quantity; a specimen of the pidgin English stuffed with Blackfellow's words used by the whites on stations in their intercourse with the aborigines.

"Too much *big fellow* water, bait (ply) fly come up bait pind (find) him," answers the aboriginal, adding, however, the question, "You patter potchum?" (eat possum).—*A. C. Grant.*

Biggin (Winchester, &c.), a coffee-pot consisting of two parts—a strainer, and a coffee-pot.

"It is very odd," said Hatton to his companion Morley, "you can't get coffee anywhere." Morley, who had supposed that coffee was about the commonest article of consumption in Mowbray, looked a little surprised; but at this moment Hatton's servant entered with a mysterious yet somewhat triumphant air, and ushering in a travelling *biggin* of their own, fuming like one of the springs of Geyser. "Now try that," said Hatton to Morley, as the servant poured him out a cup.—*Disraeli: Sybil.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Biggity (American), large, extravagant, grand, presumptuously.

Well, den, w'iles dey wuz all a-settin' dar, en de 'lasses wuz a bilin' en a blubberin', dey got ter runnin' on, talkin' mighty *biggity.*—*Uncle Remus.*

Big guns (common), men of importance, great people.

M. Coquelin has been fêted, feasted, and generally entertained during his stay in the metropolis. The other evening he was invited to meet the Prince of Wales, and had the honour of supping with Albert the Jolly, and a host of other *big guns.*—*Modern Society.*

Big head (American), a term of abuse, implying that a man is conceited, "bumptious;" to get the *big head*, to be in a state verging on intoxication, what the French call "être allumé."

All the Colonel's tact and diplomacy were necessary to preserve peace now. . . . The "boys" got the *big head*, and displayed effervescence scarcely less remarkable than that of the champagne itself.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

It signifies, further, the feeling of a swelled head, accompanied by headache experienced in the morning after a debauch, when one has "mal aux cheveux," as the French express it.

A *big head* laden with cocktails and gin,
Is all that I have to say,
To remind me of the whisky that has all gone in
To a hold that is not far away.
As I sit on a keg gazing over the beers,
That the bums are all scooping down,
I pray that the barkeeper may have no fears,
For in whisky I'll never be drowned.
—*Chicago Tribune: Dear Boys, Come and Have a Drink.*

Big house (costermongers), the workhouse.

As long as they kept out of the *big house* she would not complain. . . . The men hate the thought of going to the *big house.*—*London Labour and the London Poor.*

Big Injun (American), a term applied at first by the red Indians to indicate some great chief.

"He *big Injun*—he heap *big Injun*—he dam heap *big Injun*—he mighty dam big heap dam *big Injun*—he *Jones!*"—*Three Thousand Miles in a Railway Car.* Philadelphia, 1869.

Big mouth (American), a very common expression applied to any man who talks too much, who is windy, "gassy," and given to bosh. During his trial for murder the wretched Guiteau often interrupted the judge by crying out "Shut up, *big mouth.*"

Henry George is going to leave New York for a while. He is probably jealous of Liberty, whose mouth is a yard wide.—*Philadelphia North American.*

They hev wandered with their sorrers unto the sunny South,
They hev got tremendous swallows, and a monstrous lot of mouth.
—*Ballad of the Green Old Man.*

Big nuts to crack (American), a difficult or large undertaking.

Big pond (American), the Atlantic.

He (old Clay) is all sorts of a hoss, and the best live one that ever cut dirt this side of the *big pond*, or t'other side either.—*Sam Slick: The Clockmaker.*

Big pot (common), a somebody, a person of consequence.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

My name is Peter Smifkins,
I live with ma at Slough;
I've got a city clerkship,
So I'm quite *a big pot* now.
—*Music Hall Song.*

Big side runs (Rugby), the open paper chases.

Big sides (schools), a school term for the practice games at football, where all or nearly all the boys join in. It was originally used at Rugby.

Big take (American), anything very much affected or popular. A grand acquisition, a fashion, a success.

We hear that certain fragrant and cunningly contrived bouquets for ladies are a *big take* in New York. In the centre of the pretty bunches of flowers half-pint bottles are neatly concealed. The bottles are filled with cool refreshing cocktails; straws run through the corks, and as the gentle daughters of Eve take a sniff, they can enjoy a "snifter."—*Fun.*

Big, to look (common), to assume an inflated air or manner. To "talk *big*," to talk in a boasting manner, from the propensity of very small men to assume "bumptious" or defiant ways. These expressions have almost ceased to be slang.

Big wig (common), a pompous, conceited individual. Also applied by the lower classes to those in a high station of life or office. Thus a judge or nobleman will be termed a *big wig*. The word is used in a good-humoured, familiar sense.

The portraits of Holy Bonifacius, Bishop of Budgeon, and all the defunct *big-wigs* of the college.—*Thackeray: Lovell the Widower.*

Talbot Twysden's dinner-table is large, and the guests most respectable. There is always a *big-wig* or two present.—*Thackeray: The Adventures of Philip.*

This morning he went up of his own accord afore the Lord Mayor or some of them city *big-wigs.—Dickens: Martin Chuzzlewit.*

(Nautical), a high officer.

Bikin (gypsy), to sell; *bikin engro*, a merchant, or one who sells.

Bildar or **beldars** (Anglo-Indian), a term applied to diggers with the spade or mattock in the public works.

Ye lyme is allé out—ye masons lounge aboute!
Ye *beldars* have alle strucke and are smoking att their eese,
Ye brickes are alle done!—
Ye kyne are skynne and bone,
And ye threasurour has bolted wyth xii thousand rupees!
—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Bilk (common), to defraud, to cheat, to obtain goods without paying for them, to cheat the driver of a hackney carriage or a girl from whom one has received the sexual favour; a *bilk*, a deception. The term has long been in use.

And all the vile companions of a street
Keep a perpetual bawling at the door:
Who beat the bawd last night? who *bilkt* the whore?
—*Earl of Rochester's Works.*

I don't intend to *bilk* my lodgings.—*Fielding: Tom Jones.*

But as upon the scene I cast
My wond'ring gaze, a friend went past.
His nose was red, he reeled along,
And when I asked him what was wrong,
Strong drink, he said, was (*hic!*) a *bilk*,
And so he had been drinking—milk!
—*Scraps.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

To "do a *bilk*," to defraud, specially used in the case of prostitutes who are cheated, in the French slang "poser un lapin." Most etymologists derive the word *bilk* from the Gothic *bilaikan*, to mock, to deride.

Bilk, as provincial or old English, meaning to cheat or defraud (Wright), is a form of *balk*, which has the same meaning, in the sense of hindering a man in his rights. *Balk*, to hinder, is, according to Skeat (Etymol. Dict.) from *balk*, a beam or bar; to put a balk or bar in a man's way. Anglo-Saxon *balca*. But as English it is probably from a Danish source, *bjælka*, Old Norse *bialki* (Ettmüller, *Lex. Ang. Saxonicum*), which brings us directly to *bilk*.

"*Bilking* the blues," in prison slang, is evading the police. In society a man who, though never actually found out, is strongly suspected of cheating at cards, would be called a *bilk*.

Bilker (common), same meaning as *bilk* in the sense of cheat, but specially applied to rascals who defraud prostitutes or cabmen.

A third and frequent means of evading payment of cab fares is for riders late at night, or in the small hours of the morning, to stealthily get out of the vehicles in motion, and then run off unobserved. Some of these malpractitioners have become so skilful in this action that they have left the cabs and gently closed the door afterwards without being seen, when they were being driven along at six or seven miles an hour. In a few instances the more expert of these *bilkers* have even jumped out of "hansoms" in dark roads or lanes unperceived by their drivers when the "two-wheelers" have been running at eight or nine miles an hour.—*Tit Bits.*

(Popular), one who gets a bed at a lodging-house and does not pay for it.

Besides, the sympathies of the other lodgers are always with the *bilker*, and if they took any part in a scuffle, should such a thing arise, it would be in his favour and against the porter.—*Thor Fredur: Sketches from Shady Places.*

Bilking (popular), explained by quotation.

The consequence is that all duties are discharged in such a place in the most slovenly manner, and that as many as possible are shirked, with consequences in the way of *bilking*, or getting beds without paying for them.—*Thor Fredur: Sketches from Shady Places.*

Bill (Eton), in the *bill*, on the punishment list.

Some of the small boys whom this delightful youth tempted to ape his habits, had often occasion to rue it when they staggered back to college giddy and sick, carrying with them a perfume which told its tale to their tutors, and caused them to be put in the *bill*.—*Brinsley Richards: Seven Years at Eton.*

Bill, a long or short (common), a term of imprisonment.

Out of prison, Larry! Lord save me! yev've had *a short bill* this time for kicking a woman.—*Savage London.*

Bill brighters (popular), small fagots employed in the kitchen to light the fires.

Billed up (army), confined to barracks, a term peculiar to Her Majesty's Guards, to whom a punishment which curtails free-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

dom of movement is no doubt especially irksome.

Billet (Australian, popular), a situation. A *billet* is as universal a term for a situation as "screw" is for a salary in Australia, or "bobby" for policeman in England. The metaphor is of course taken from *billets* or quarters being found for soldiers, who are then said to be "*billeted* out" in military parlance. Thus one of the commonest slang words in Australia—

> Up country *billets* oft are loss,
> Work for "tucker"—trust the boss.
> —*Edward Fitzgerald: Printers' Proverbs in the Australasian Printer's Keepsake.*

Billet is used in England with a like signification. In prisons "getting a *billet*" is being appointed to some office which procures certain advantages for the convict who is fortunate enough to receive the favour.

> Some time later on I renewed my acquaintance with P— under difficulties which were not altogether insurmountable, and as he walked behind me in the exercise ground, he told me the story of his commercial career. Being a "communion bloke" and a "good character" man, he soon got a *billet*. He was enrolled amongst the "cleaners," and promoted to be the "chaplain's orderly," which was the only *billet* I wished to obtain for myself. He secured it, and on a Sunday solemnly marched up the pulpit stairs to open the Bible or Prayer Book, and fix therein at the proper places the hymns and anthems to be sung by the congregation. This was his Sunday's duty.—*Evening News.*

Billiard slum, the (Australian convicts' slang), false pretences. Probably introduced into Australia by the convicts transported thither. To "give on *the billiard slum*," to "mace" or "give upon the mace," *i.e.*, to obtain goods on credit which you never mean to pay for, to run up a score with the same intention, or to sponge upon your acquaintance by continually begging or borrowing from them (Vaux's Memoirs). To parallel the pun between "mace" and *billiard slum*, *cf.* "bolt-in-tun," "cobbler," &c. Slang, and especially thieves' slang, is very addicted to these puns.

Billingsgate pheasant (common), a red herring or bloater, otherwise known under the appellation of "Yarmouth capon" or "two-eyed steak."

Bill of sale (old slang), widows' weeds.

Billy (Scotch), a silk handerchief, also used by thieves; (common), a policeman's staff; (thieves), stolen metal; (New Zealand and Australia), a saucepan. In the Bush, everything—tea, soup, or anything else—is boiled in the *billy*, a tin saucepan with a wire poop-handle to carry it by. The sundowner or swagman, tramping the country in search of work, invariably carries this *billy* and a blanket. In the latter all his worldly goods are usually strapped up; sometimes he goes so far as having a bit of mackintosh sheeting outside the blanket to keep it dry. He will

be seen "humping" (carrying) these on the hottest day.

So much for our hero! A statuesque foot
Would suffer by wearing that heavy nailed boot—
Its owner is hardly Achilles:
However, he's happy. He cuts a great "fig"
In a land where a coat is no part of the rig,
In the country of "damper" and *billies*.
—*Dr. Kendall: Tim the Splitter.*

Billy boy (nautical), a Yorkshire vessel, with one mast.

Billy-button (thieves' slang), rhyming slang for mutton; also a contemptuous term for a young journeyman tailor.

Billy buzman (thieves), a pick-pocket who confines his attention exclusively to silk handkerchiefs.

Billycock (Australian), a kind of hat. The *billycock* is a low, round, hard-felt hat with a turned-up brim. Hotten describes it as a soft felt hat of the Jim Crow or "wide-awake" description.

Billy-fencer (popular), a marine-store dealer.

Billy-hunting (popular), buying old metal; one of the occupations of a "billy-fencer" or marine-store dealer. (Thieves), going out for the purpose of stealing pocket-handkerchiefs.

Billy-stink (Anglo-Indian), a name given by Europeans in India to the vile liquids of native manufacture sold in the bazaars.

Billy-stink is the very appropriate name given by Europeans to one of those maddening native compounds. It would indeed be very hard to say what the component properties of this very highly-flavoured fluid consist of. . . . When drinking any of the odoriferous mixture it is a common thing for individuals to press the apertures pertaining to their nasal appendage between thumb and forefinger.—*Brunlees Patterson: Life in the Ranks.*

Bims, bimshise (West Indian). Barbadoes and its inhabitants are so nicknamed throughout the West Indies. A recent traveller hazards the following ingenious explanation—which if not true ought to be so—of these terms, which are confessedly obscure in their derivation. "Barbadoes is known all the world over as the little island that pays her way; it has never been conquered; its people are enterprising and energetic, go-ahead and driving; in short, the business men of these islands (the Caribbees). Barbadian may therefore be said to mean a man with 'go' and grit, energy and *vim*."

Bing (gypsy), the devil; (old cant) a liquor shop, as a rum *bing; to bing*, to go, to attack, shoot.

"Could you not have turned him on his back like a turtle, and left him there?" said Lord Etherington. "And had an ounce of lead in my body for my pains? No, no! we have already had footpad work enough. I promise you the old buck was armed as if he meant to *bing* folks on the low toby."—*Scott: St. Ronan's Well.*

Bing avast (old cant derived from gypsy), an angry command to be off, meaning literally, "go

to the devil." *Beng* English gypsy; Scottish gypsy *bing*, meaning the devil, and *avast* from *avāva* second present indicative and imperative, *avāsa* or *avéssa* "thou goest," or "go thou." Full form, *bing avas tu!* or *awaste.* It is probable that in Harman's vocabulary *a* is by accident separated from *wast. Bing*, the devil, is not to be confounded with the same word in "to *bing* out," in old cant, nor *avast* with *avast*, in its other meaning. It is probable that those who made the old cant, having learned from gypsies that *bing avast* meant "go to the devil," considered that *bing* meant "go" or "come" a distance, and used it as such.

Bing out, bien morts and toure,
For all your duds are *binged avast.*
—*Old Song*, 1560.

Binge (Oxford), a big drinking bout. To *binge* is a provincialism for to soak a vessel in water to prevent its leaking. It is also a nautical term meaning to rinse a cask. This word seems to be connected with bung, the orifice in the bilge of a cask, through which it is filled.

Bingo (old cant), probably of gypsy origin. Spirits or brandy.

Pass round the *bingo*, son of a gun,
You musty, dusky, husky son!
—*Lord Lytton: Paul Clifford.*

Some soda-water, with a dash of *bingo*, clears one's head in the morning.—*T. Hughes: Tom Brown at Oxford.*

"*Bingo* boy," a drunkard; "*bingo* mort," female dram-drinker.

Bing (gypsy), the devil, an evil spirit, probably suggested the word. Puns on spirit in its twofold meaning have always been common both in English and gypsy. *Bengalo pani* (gypsy), rum.

Bingy (trade), a term largely used in the butter trade to denote bad, ropy butter (Hotten).

Binnacle-word (nautical), any learned or affected word used in the navy, which the sailors jeeringly offer to chalk upon the binnacle.

Binni (tinker), small; *binny soobli*, a boy; lit., small man.

Birch broom (thieves), rhyming slang for room.

Birdcage, a slang term in vogue among the lower orders for a bustle, or in more modern slang a "dress-improver." This part of a lady's toilet is a kind of pad or cushion worn at the back of the dress for the purpose of expanding the skirts, and, in some cases, making up for certain deficiencies in the wearer's form. Those now in fashion are immensely elongated structures, little suggestive of the human form; some are built on the principle of the old crinoline, with wire or steel ribs, hence the appellation of *birdcage.*

She was walking in her best clothes on Bank Holiday, when a crossing sweeper knocked up against her, and being a perfect lady she was all over his chevy before he'd time to turn round, and they took her by the chignon and the *birdcage* and

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

waltzed her into Vine Street quicker than a wink.—*Sporting Times.*

Me and Jane was at Greenwich last week. The hill's very nice, but Jane quite spiled her *birdcage* rollin' down. A new dress, too.—*Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday.*

(Racing), the saddling paddock adjoining the Grand Stand at Newmarket.

(Popular), a four-wheeled cab, otherwise known by the appropriate appellation of "growler."

Bird-lime (thieves), rhyming slang for time.

Birdseye (popular), a handkerchief.

Were they lurking at this secluded spot until what they thought was a good time to sheer off with the "swag"? Was that the swag tied up in the blue *birdseye*?—*J. Greenwood: In Strange Company.*

Bird's eye fogle, a (prize-fighters), the name of a scarf tied round their waists by prize-fighters in the ring; a neckerchief or handkerchief with white spots on a black, blue, or other ground. *Fogle*, from the German *vogel*, a bird.

Bird's eye wipe (common), a kerchief, either for the pocket or neck, with blue spots on it.

Birk (back slang), a "crib," *i.e.*, house.

Birthday suit (common), the suit of our first parents before they had a bite in the apple.

Bish (Anglo-Indian), poison; Sanskrit, *visha*, poison.

An old English gypsy once asked me if I knew what *beesa* meant. He said it was a kind of poison made from beans. I recognised in it at once an Indian word for poison, especially aconite.

Bishop (horse-dealers), to *bishop* a horse is a swindling contrivance resorted to in order to deceive buyers as to its age. An old horse has no black streaks on his teeth, and by some process these are made to appear; from a north of England term. See BISHOP'S FOOT.

(Common), the chamber utensil or "jordan;" also, latterly, an "it." The last is derived from the humorous description of Max O'Rell in "John Bull's Womankind," p. 15:—

"Better still, would you believe that in very good houses I have seen, and very plainly too, . . . yes, positively, I have seen *It* on the floor under the washstand?"

Bishop's court. In most Australian sees the bishop's palace is called bishop's court. Perhaps palaces are considered unsuitable for democratic communities; just as it is not correct to address a colonial bishop as "my lord." In practice, however, they are always addressed "my lord." Not to do so would be an incivility.

Bishop's foot, to bishop (Lowland Scotch and North of England), the devil's foot. Milk burned in the pan is, in the North of England, said to be *bishoped*. In Fifeshire the expression is applied to food that has been scorched in cooking or otherwise spoiled—"*the*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

bishop's foot's in it." The bishop means the devil, and the saying is probably a relic of the times of the Reformation, when in Scotland everything connected with prelacy was considered to be bad.

Bisser (gypsy), to forget.

Bit (American), correctly the old Spanish "real," equal to twelve and a half cents, or about sixpence. In England the now seldom seen fourpenny-piece was called a fourpenny-*bit*, also a "joey," from the late Joseph Hume, M.P., who extolled its convenience in a speech which he made in Parliament. In Pennsylvania the "real" was called an elevenpenny-*bit*,—*bit* being a translation of the Spanish "peso," a piece or *bit* (as it was popularly understood), and signified any coin. Since this Spanish and Mexican money was withdrawn from circulation the term *bit* is applied to the "dime." The "medio" or "half-real" was in Philadelphia called a *fippenny-bit* (fivepenny), which was abbreviated to "fip," as "elevenpenny-*bit*" became contracted to "levy." This old Spanish currency became so worn that the "levy," which was legally worth twelve and a half cents, often weighed less than the *ten*-cent silver piece or "dime," and it was said that boys were in the habit of filing down and smoothing the latter so as to make them pass for the former.

A Philadelphian is always stylish and fashionable when he owns twelve and a half cents, for then he can always hold a *levy* (levee).—*Vanity Fair*, 1861.

(West Indian), a *bit* is a fourpenny piece. In Demerara the negroes make this one of their units of calculation. Thus a shilling is three *bits*, and so on.

(Popular), fourpence.

Bitch, to (old slang), to give way through fear. The primary meaning is to sport. (Common), "to be" or "to stand *bitch*," from the gypsy *bitcher* or *bitch*, to send away, let go, or yield.

"Don't *bitcher* it because you're at rash"—"Don't let it go because you're afraid."

To assume a woman's functions in making tea, presiding at the table, &c.

Bitchadey-pawdel (gypsy), transported.

Bitch booby (old military slang), a country girl.

Bitcher (gypsy), to send. Hence to order or command. *Bitcher-ing kérs*, police or assize-courts. See To Bitch.

Bitcherin mush (gypsy), a magistrate.

Bitcher-pawdel (gypsy), to transport.

Bitch party (university), tea party; only suitable for women in the minds of the coiners of this

NAGARJUNA BOOKS OF INDIA

irreverent expression. "Will you be old *bitch?*" means "Will you make tea?"

Biter (old), a woman of inordinate sexual desires.

Bite the ear, to (prison slang), to borrow. "I bit his ear for three and a sprat"—I borrowed 3s. 6d. of him.

Bite the roger, to (thieves), to steal a portmanteau.

Bite the wiper, to (thieves), to steal a pocket-handkerchief.

Bite, to (common), to take in, impose on, cheat, over-reach in any way. Hotten says this is a gypsy term, but does not prove it. "Cross-bite, for a cheat, constantly occurs in the writers of the sixteenth century. Bailey has cross-bite, a disappointment, probably the primary sense, and *bite* is very probably a contraction of this." It is much more probably derived from the Dutch *buiten*, which in slang means, according to Teirlinck, to buy, or trade, and which is more accurately defined by Gherard van der Scheuren (*Teuthonista oft Duytslender*, 1475–77) as "*Buyten*, wesselen mangeln, cuyden; *tuyschen*-cambire, permutare," &c. These words all mean to trade, exchange, or barter; but *tuyschen* indicates cheating, or swindling; combining the force of the analogous German words *tauschen*, to exchange or trade, and *täuschen*, to deceive. Hotten also says that *bite* is a north country word for a hard bargain (used by Pope), and that Swift tells us that it originated with a nobleman in his day. According to Sewel's Dictionary, *buit* is booty, spoil, pillage; *buiten*, among other meanings, has "to go out to pillage," and "zich te buyten gaan" (*i.e.*, to go out, or away, or too far) is "to be exorbitant." When we remember that *byten* means in Dutch to *bite*, and *buyten* (which has almost the same pronunciation) to bargain with all the associations of deceit and plunder, it seems much more probable that *bite*, a hard bargain, or *bite*, to cheat, came from the Low Countries direct, than from an English word signifying "disappointment."

Bite was formerly used as an interjection equivalent to the modern expression "sold!" There is a story of a man sentenced to the gallows who sold his body to a surgeon. . . .

It is a superstition with some surgeons who beg the bodies of condemned malefactors, to go to the gaol and bargain for the carcass with the criminal himself. . . . The fellow who killed the officer of Newgate, very forwardly, and like a man who was willing to deal, told him, "Look you, Mr. Surgeon, that little dry fellow, who has been half-starved all his life, and is now half-dead with fear, cannot answer your purpose. . . . Come, for twenty shillings I am your man." Says the surgeon, "Done, there's a guinea." This witty rogue took the money, and as soon as he had it in his fist, cries, "*Bite*, I am to be hanged in chains."—*Spectator*, No. 504.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Bite up (tailors), an unpleasant altercation.

Bit-faker (thieves' slang), a coiner or forger of false money. To "fake" is probably the Latin *facio*, which has many meanings besides its primary meanings of "make" and "do." It may also be a form of the gypsy *ker*, which has the same significations. A *bit-faker* would, therefore, be a maker of money (bit).

Bit-faking (thieves' slang), coining or forging money.

Biting his hips (tailors), regretting what he has done or said.

Biting up (tailors), grieving for something lost or gone.

Biting your name in (popular), taking a large draught of some liquor, drinking deep or greedily.

Bit of blood, a spirited horse that has some blood.

Bit of cavalry, a saddle horse.

Bit of leaf (prison), a small quantity of tobacco.

The same rigid rule is in force at Portland. I suppose it is because the convicts almost to a man set such a high value on a *bit of leaf*, regarding it as the greatest luxury of their lives, that the authorities are so severe in their endeavours to keep it from them. But they get it for all that. —*J. Greenwood: Gaol Birds at Large.*

Bit of mutton (common), a nice woman, generally in a questionable sense.

Bit on, a (common), slightly intoxicated.

The gallant captain was *a bit on*. He wanted to make some purchases there and then.—*Sporting Times.*

Bit of sticks (sporting), a copse.

The form of the master, his white head, who bends
With his fine old school air, deferential and courtly,
As his hand to our Belle's tiny boot-tip he lends,
"Boots and saddles" the word is:—and ye who would follow
For a last stirrup-cup loiter not nor delay!
For from yon *bit of sticks* will ere long the view-holloa
Ring the rise of the curtain, the start of the play.
—*Sporting Times.*

Bit of stuff (familiar), overdressed man; a man with full confidence in his appearance and ability. A young woman of dissolute life, who is also called a "bit of muslin."

(Common), a draft or bill of exchange.

I am sorry that *bit of stuff* (meaning the bill) wasn't for five thousand francs.—*Lever: The Dodd Family Abroad.*

Bits of stiff (popular), bank notes.

Bitter (general), to "do a *bitter*," to have a glass of bitter ale. Originally an Oxford term.

Into the "Cri." of an evening I slip,
And into the cool sparkling *bitter* I dip.
—*Music Hall Song.*

Bitto, bitti (gypsy), a bit, a little, small, little. A *bitto müsh*, a small man; *bitti dir*, fainter, lower (voice), less, smaller;

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

bitti mūllos or *mūlleys*, goblins, fairies.

Bivvy, pivvy (provincial), a drink, beer; a shant of *bivvy*, a pot of beer; a diminutive of beverage, or from the gypsy *piava* or *biava*, to drink; *pivo*, beer in Bohemian or Czech. In French cant *pivois* is wine.

Bīyĕg'hin (tinker), stealing; *biyêgh'*, to steal; *biyegh' th'eenik*, to steal the thing.

Biz (English and American), business.

"They manage these things better in France," said Gub, on the Caffarel affair. "It's all very well to sneer at 'decorated tailors,' but I think if you can do it, to pay your tailor with a decoration is dashed good *biz*. I think I shall try it on."

"What'll you decorate him with?" asked Rootytooty, who takes a lively interest in these matters, and believes muchly in an editor's ability to benefit his fellowmen.

"Oh," replied Gub, "I shall try him with the Order of the Boot."—*Sporting Times.*

It also means any kind of occupation.

That wasn't my day for being in the target *biz*, and I flopped flat as a pancake.—*American Newspaper.*

To bonnet a lot of old blokes and make petticoats squeal is good *biz*,
But a Crusher's 'ard knuckles a crunching yer scrag? No, I'm blowed if that is!
Let 'em swarm "in their thousands"—the mugs!—and their black and red flags let 'em carry;
But wen they are next on the job they will 'ave to look wide-oh! for 'Arry.
—*Punch.*

In theatrical language the *biz* is the acting, performing a part.

And, when you come to Covent G., it also may be said,
That Horace Lennard's book is good, and worthy to be read;
That Squire and those are funny chaps, that Fanny Leslie's "great,"
And Joseph Cave, in all the *biz*, is smart and up to date.
—*Punch.*

B. K. S. (officers), barracks, used specially among officers in mufti, who wish to preserve the incognito.

Blab (common), to talk inconsiderately, to let secrets slip out, betray; Dan. *blabbre*, to babble.

"He has not peached so far," said the Jew. . . . "If he means to *blab* us among his new friends, we may slap his mouth yet."—*Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Among the many modes of tormenting practised by the ordinary woman of society, one of the worst is her habit of *blabbing*, or repeating to one dear friend the things that have been lately said and done by another dear friend.—*Saturday Review.*

Black-and-tan (street), half-and-half, porter and ale mixed. (American), applied to black and brown terriers. A mulatto, a mixture of mulattoes and blacks. During the Civil War the South was called the *black-and-tan* country, from the planters "tanning" or beating their slaves.

Black arse (common), a kettle or pot.

Black art (old cant), the art of picking locks.

Blackball (society), means to vote against a man for election for a club, &c., by ballot. The

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

expression was derived from the once prevalent custom at club elections of giving each voter a white and a black ball; if he wished to vote for the election of the candidate he put in the white ball, if otherwise, the black ball. This term is so frequently used that it has ceased to be slang, and the word "pill" has been substituted. The French equivalent, a corruption of the English, is *black-bouler.*

Blackberry swagger (popular), a person who hawks tapes and bootlaces (Hotten).

Blackbird, to (colonial), to kidnap, from the colour of the skin of those kidnapped, such as negroes, natives of New Zealand, &c. In the quotation reference is made to "Kanakas," which see.

But sometimes—we are glad to say in the past—iniquitously *blackbirded* or kidnapped, and practically sold into slavery.—*Daily Telegraph.*

Blackbird catching (colonial), the slave trade; recruiting coloured labourers in the South Sea Islands.

Black-box (thieves), a lawyer.

My blowen kidded a bloke into a panel crib and shook him of his thimble to put up for a *black-box*, but it wouldn't fadge. I took two stretches of air and exercise.—*On the Trail.*

i.e., "My girl enticed a man into a bawdy house (where men are robbed by confederates), and stole his watch to procure money for a counsel, but it was of no use. I got two years at a convict settlement."

Blackboys (up country Australian), aboriginal servants in Australia. *Blackboy* means a black who has become a servant. It is not surprising that "boy" should be synonymous with "servant" in countries in whose infancy free adult whites could hardly by any wages be induced to work. The term is not applied to wild blacks.

In many instances where two or three teams travelled together, one or more were driven by *blackboys*, that is to say, aboriginal natives; the term being invariably employed by colonists towards blacks, no matter what age they may be. These were attired similarly to their white companions in shirt and trousers; but the shirts were as a rule of a more gaudy pattern, and a bright-coloured handkerchief as often as not encircled their waists, or was bound round their heads.—*A. C. Grant: Bush Life in Queensland.*

Black bracelets (old), handcuffs.

When the turnkey next morning stepp'd into his room,
The sight of the hole in the wall struck him dumb;
The sheriff's *black bracelets* lay strewn on the ground,
But the lad that had worn 'em could nowhere be found.
Tol-de-rol!
—*H. Ainsworth: Jack Sheppard.*

Black cattle (old), parasites infesting the heads of uncleanly people.

Black coat (common), a clergyman, from the habitual sombreness of his attire. The French argot has *corbeau* for a priest, for the same reason.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Black diamonds (popular), a common simile for coal. Also, talented persons of dingy or unpolished exterior; rough jewels (Hotten).

Black disease (medical), the common name of more than one disease, as of black jaundice, and of melæna.

Black eye (common), "we gave the bottle a *black eye*," *i.e.*, drank it almost up. "He cannot say 'black is the white of my eye,'" *i.e.*, he cannot point out a blot in my character. (Nautical), "black's the white of my eye!" used when Jack avers that no one can say this or that of him. It is an indignant assertion of innocence of a charge. "Le ciel n'est pas plus pur que le fond de mon cœur!"

Blackfellow (Australian), an aboriginal, one of the native inhabitants of Australia. The first feature in the natives which struck the early settlers of Australia was their colour. It was natural for them to write of the *blackfellows*. At present the term is most used by whites "up the country," and by the aborigines themselves. Townspeople generally talk of "aboriginals."

I was one day at a country cricket match in Victoria. Two aboriginals were present. We were a man short, so we asked one of them to play for us. Both came into the pavilion, when the one who had been asked to play said to the other, "*Blackfellow*, you just clear out of this—this place for cricketers, not for *blackfellows*."—*Douglas B. W. Sladen.*

Black fly (country), a clergyman.

Black-foot (provincial), one who attends on a courting expedition, to bribe the servant, make friends with the sister, or put any friend off his guard. The French say of a man who favours love intrigues, that "il tient la chandelle."

Blackford, Blackford swell (London slang), a swell supposed to be in borrowed or hired plumage. It is common for roughs to cry *Blackford!* to a swell dressed up for the occasion. So called from an advertising tradesman well known as letting on hire suits of clothes by the day.

Said the teacher: "'And it came to pass that David rent his clothes.' Now what does that mean, boys, 'rent his clothes'?" Up went Benny's hand. "I tumble," says he, "*Blackford*."—*Popular Song.*

"He is seen everywhere about town I declare,
When at home, who the deuce can he be?
He says he resides with his ma in Mayfair
Though his letters are postmarked E.C.
He looks very well that's beyond all dispute
For at *Blackford's* he's rigged up and down,
For *Blackford* lends suits, from the hat to the boots,
And that just suits the Boy about Town."

Blackfriars (thieves' slang), used as a warning; "look out!" French thieves would say, "acresto!"

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Blackguard (common), a low, disreputable fellow. Dr. Johnson, Gifford, and others derive this from an attendant on the devil, and also from the mean dependants of a great house, who were generally called the *black guard* as early at least as the beginning of the sixteenth century.

We have neither school nor hospital for the distressed children called the *blackguards.—Nelson: Address to Persons of Quality.*

A lousy knave, that within this twenty years rode with the *blackguards* in the duke's carriage, 'mongst spits and dripping-pans.—*Webster: The White Devil.*

Thieves and murderers took upon them the cross to escape the gallows; adulterers did penance in their armour. A lamentable case that the devil's *blackguards* should be God's soldiers.—*Fuller: The Holy War.*

C. G. Leland says:—"It is probably the old Dutch thieves' slang word *blagaart*, from *blag*, meaning a man (but always in an inferior sense), and *art*, the commonest termination for a noun. 'The greater part of the nouns in slang which are of Dutch origin, are formed with the ending *aard* (*aart*, *erd*, *ert*), *er*, *rik*, *heid*, and *ing*.'—*James Teirlinck, Woordenboek van Bargoensch.* To those who would object that man does not necessarily mean a vulgar or low person, I would suggest that in thieves' patois it means nothing else, and that in our British tinkers' dialect, *subil siableach* (Gaelic for a vagabond) is used simply to denote any man."

Likewise in the French argot, *gonce*, originally a fool (occasionally used with that meaning now), has the signification of man, individual. Wright has, however, shown that the entirely English term *blackguard*, as applied to scullions, was in general use at an early date.

Her Majesty, by some means I know not, was lodged at his house Ewston, farre unmeet for her highness, but fitter for the *black garde.—Lodge's Illustrations*, ii. 188.

I was alone among a coachful of women, and those of the elector's duchesse chamber, forsooth, which you would have said to have been of the *blacke guard.—Morison's Itinerarie.*

Though some of them are inferior to those of their own ranke, as the *blacke-guard* in a prince's court.—*Burton: Anatomy of Melancholy.*

Nor must her cousin be forgot, preferr'd
From many years' command in the *black guard*,
To be an ensign.
Whose tatter'd colours well do represent
His first estate i' th' ragged regiment.
—*Earl of Rochester's Works.*

In the above the allusion is to the cousin of Nell Gwyn, Charles II.'s mistress.

These make out a strong case for the early use of the word in England. It would seem to have died out for a time and been revived, possibly under Dutch influence, in the time of the Georges.

It has been suggested that *blackguard* is from *braggart*, with a change of liquid. French of the sixteenth century *braguar*, *bragard*, or *bragghar* (gradually altered to *bragueur*, then *bla-*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

gueur), dandy, vain fellow, swaggerer, traceable to the old *braies*, breeches, dandies of the sixteenth century being known by the approved style of their breeches. More recently there are instances of dandies or others receiving the appellation of the more conspicuous articles of their dress or the colour of these —the *talon-rouge*, a dandy of the time of Louis XIV.; *col-cassé*, the modern Parisian "masher;" *casquette-à-trois-ponts*, a bully; *culs-rouges* and *cherry-bums*, hussars; *white-choker*, a clergyman, &c.

It has also been said that the term was derived from the circumstance of a number of dirty ragged boys attending on the parade to blacken the boots and shoes of the soldiers and do any other dirty offices. From their constant attendance at the time of the Royal Body Guard mounting, they were by some facetious person nicknamed the *blackguards*.

Blackie (American), a very old word for a negro, still occasionally used. It is to be found in a negro song which dates back to the beginning of this century.

Our son no more he serve; no more play de lackey,
No more our daughter weep, cos wite man call dem *blackie*.
—*Ching-a-Ring Chaw*.

Black jack (American), rum and molasses, with or without water. A New England drink. (Winchester), a large leathern jug which formerly was used for beer.

Black job (undertakers'), a funeral. Lord Portsmouth's hobby was to attend all the *black jobs* he could hear of.

"What, a funeral mute?" "Yes, sir, *black job* business."—*Edmund Yates: Land at Last*.

Black language (Anglo-Indian), an expression, no longer common, for Hindustani and other Indian tongues. It is remarkable that the English gypsies sometimes speak of Romany as the *Kālo jib*, or black tongue. The term was doubtless originally Hindu.

Blackleg (common), a name formerly appropriated to swindlers in racing transactions, and to those who betted without intending to pay their losses. Also generally applied in America to gambling of any kind. In its earlier application it meant a swindler or criminal, and is conjecturally derived from such fellows' legs being black and bruised from sitting in the stocks and wearing fetters; or from the legs of a game-cock, which are always black, gamblers and swindlers being frequenters of the cockpit. Else from an allusion to the legs of a "rook," another name for a swindler. *Blackleg* is now a recognised word. In old provincial English a *black-foot* was a man who attended a lover on a courting expedition to do

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the dirty and mean work, such as bribing servants, and acting the Leporello.

(Tailors) *to blackleg*, a set that reject a man as not fit to move in their society, or who organise a method to compel a man to leave his situation or the town, are said *to blackleg* him.

Blackletter lawyer (legal), an antiquarian expert in law, whereas one well versed in "case law," or the decisions of judges, is termed a "case lawyer."

Black lion (medical), the name given to certain rapidly-sloughing ulcers which affected our soldiers when in Portugal.

Blackmail (recognised). To levy *blackmail* was a tribute extorted by powerful robber chieftains to protect travellers from the depredations of other robbers inferior to themselves in strength and organisation. In the United States, says Bartlett, it usually means money extorted from a person, by threatening to accuse him of a crime or to expose him in the newspapers (it is used with a like meaning in England).

"Thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just,"
But sure that force in self defence will fail,
Whose only armour 'gainst the critic thrust,
Is found to be *black mail.*
—*Punch.*

What Mr. Caine tells us about Clapham Common is unfortunately not confined to the suburbs, but is a very active evil in the centre of the very best parts of our town, and the continuous *blackmailing* of unfortunates by the police has been a notorious fact in such thoroughfares as Piccadilly, Pall Mall, Waterloo Place, Regent Street, &c., for some years past. —*Saturday Review.*

Skeat says:—"*Mail* is a Scottish term for rent. *Blackmail* or *black rent* is the rent paid in cattle, as distinct from *white money* or silver." It is curious to note, however, that *maille* in old French signified copper coin (a trace of which still remains in the modern phrases *sans sou ni maille, avoir maille à partir*, &c.). This word may have been adopted by the Scotch, who still retain French words in their phraseology. *Black-money* is a provincialism still used (Wright).

Black Maria (English and American), the cell van in which prisoners are removed from court to prison. Termed in the French argot "panier à salade."

Bobbies base and beaks inhuman
Every fieldmale's path perplex;
Who on earth would be a woman—
Which it is a wretched sex.

No one freer, no one greater,
'Arry cycles: is it just
Sarah Anne's perambulator
Should be hobject of disgust?

What's the reason, tell me why, ah!
Why that gig with children nice
Should be scorned like *Black Maria*,
Full of villainy and vice?
—*Ally Sloper's Half Holiday.*

When Lord Carrington and his attendant noblemen arrived in Melbourne on a visit lately, *Black Maria*, the prison van, was drawn up by the station, apparently in waiting.—*Modern Society.*

This term is said to have

originated in Philadelphia in 1838.

Black Monday (popular), executions used to take place on Mondays.

Black mummer (old), a person unshaved and unwashed.

Black ointment (thieves), pieces of raw meat.

Black psalm (old), to sing a *black psalm* was to cry.

Black Sal (popular), the tea-kettle.

Black Saturday (workmen's). When a labourer or mechanic has anticipated or drawn all his wages and has no money to take at the end of the week, his mates say "he has a *black Saturday* in his week."

Black-sheep (Winchester). When a man in "junior part" jockeyed a man in "middle part" he was said to *black-sheep* him, whilst the other was said to be *black-sheeped*. This could only happen in "cloisted time," that is, during the last eleven weeks of "long half," when "middle" and "junior parts" went up together. It refers now to senior and junior divisions of "middle part."

Blacksmith's daughter (old), the large keys with which the doors of sponging-houses were furnished.

Black spy (popular), the devil.

Black strap (popular), port wine. (American), New England rum and molasses. (Nautical), the dark country wines of the Mediterranean. Also, bad port, such as was served for the sick in former times.

Ask for a bottle of *black strap* out of bin No. 4; light your cigar, smoke the room full; nod to misses, pull up your shirt collar before the looking-glass.—*Drawing for the Million.*

(Old), the name by which a certain punishment, a labour task imposed on soldiers at Gibraltar for small offences, was called.

Black teapot (popular), a black footman.

Black town (Anglo-Indian), the popular local English name for Madras. It is also used at Bombay to distinguish the native quarter.

Many cadets on their arrival are obliged to take up their residence in dirty punch-houses in the *black town*.—*Munro's Narrative*, 22.

Black wash (medical), a lotion consisting of calomel and lime-water.

Black work (popular), undertaking.

Bladder of lard (popular), a bald-headed person. The French equivalent is "boule de vieux oing."

Blade (common). It is generally and plausibly assumed that this word for a man is derived from

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

blade as a synonym for sword, and a soldier. And this seems to be borne out by the analogy of a similar French expression, *une bonne lame*, which formerly meant a man of the world, a dashing man. *Blade* is still used in the provinces for a brisk, mettlesome, sharp young man. But as it has the same pronunciation as the Dutch *bloed*, meaning "blood," and as a blood was the common term for "a fast, and high-mettled man" during the reigns of the Georges, it is not impossible it owes much to the latter. The word was also a personal noun in Dutch, as *een arme bloed*, a poor fellow. *Bloed*, a simpleton, is from a different root; *bloode*, timid, fearful; Irish *blate*, German *blöde*. Roysterers and debauchees were also termed "roaring boys."

I do not all this while account you in
The list of those are called the *blades* that roar
In brothels, and break windows; fright the streets
At midnight worse than constables.
—*Shirley: The Gamester.*

Bladhunk (tinker), prison.

Blame (popular), a mild expletive used when one is dissatisfied or disappointed. Oftener heard in the provinces than in London, and much more so in America.

The keeper had fired four times at an Indian, but he said, with an injured air, that the Indian had skipped around so's to spile everything—and ammunition *blamed* skurse, too.—*Mark Twain: Roughing It.*

Yes, John Bull is a *blamed* blockhead. —*Sam Slick.*

"Man alive! This ain't the boat; this is the ferry house!"

"Yew—don'—say so!" slowly ejaculated the sunburned old fellow. "An' here I've been a waitin' three hours for the *blamed* thing to start for Brooklyn!"—*Drake's Traveller's Magazine.*

"Damnation!" is sometimes softened into "blamenation!"

Blan (gypsy), the wind.

Blank (hunting), to draw a *blank* in coursing or hunting is to have a run without meeting with anything. Quite recently the term *blank* has been adopted as a substitute for "damn," "bloody," and other forcible expressions.

Here you've been and gone three hours on an errand for me, and *blank* me if you ain't runnin' off without a word about it.—*Bret Harte: Gabriel Conroy.*

"For *blank's* sake, sir, give me the orffice, you knows me surely, and that I'm square. Vell, then, give me the orffice, so help me *blank* I'll keep it dark."

Enter a closely-shaven, bullet-headed fellow in an ecstasy of excitement at having just seen Cuss, and at the exquisite "fitness" of that worthy. "So help my *blank*, *blank!*" he cries delightedly, "if he ain't a *blank* picter with the weins in his face down 'ere and 'ere, a showin' out just if a *blank* hartist 'ad painted him. Tell yer he's beautiful, fine as a *blank* greyhound, with a *blank* heavy air with him that looks *blank* like winnin. Take yer two quid to one, guv'nor?" adds the speaker, suddenly picking out a stout purple-faced farmer in the group of eager listeners.

—*Charles Dickens: Farce for the Championship in All the Year Round.*

Blanket, a lawful (old cant), a wife. The allusion is obvious.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Blanks (Anglo-Indian), a rare word used for whites or Europeans by themselves.

Blare (popular), to roar, to bawl.

He *blared* and he holloaed and swore he was hurt,
His coat got torn off and he hadn't a shirt,
Then the missus comes down and she said to the cook,
You audacious hussey, you'd best sling your hook.
— *The Masher and the Parrot: Broadside Ballad.*

Blarney (common), flattery; supposed to be derived from a stone in the tower of Blarney Castle, near Cork, the kissing of which is a feat of some difficulty, from its perilous position in the wall. It is supposed to confer the gift of eloquence, of a kind peculiarly adapted to win the hearts of women. It is a common saying in Cork, when a man is trying his powers of persuasion or wheedling, "he has been to Blarney Castle," or "none of your *blarney*."

Blast (popular), a familiar name amongst the lower orders for erysipelas of the face.

Blater (popular), a calf; to "cry beef on a *blater*," to make a fuss about nothing.

Don't be glim-flashy; why, you'd cry beef on a *blater*.—*Lytton: Pelham.*

Blather (general), idle nonsense. Also thin mud or puddle.

A prize-fighter who does not fight is about as valuable a machine as an alarum clock which does not go off. He has no *raison d'être*. We do not of course wish to insinuate that any of the "fistic marvels" of to-day are guilty of such conduct. And yet there may be those who watch "Mr." John L. Sullivan revolving round the provinces in a cloud of *blather*, who think the cap should fit.—*Fair Trade.*

Blatherskite (American), a man whose tongue runs away with him; an irrepressible noisy chatterer; "blathering." Of Scotch origin (*vide* BLETHERS).

Blaze (American). "To *blaze* a tree," to remove the bark so as to leave a white surface exposed, which serves either for a boundary, a landmark, or as a sign to direct travellers. The Algonkin Indians of the north-east *blaze* trees so as to direct Indians leaving a village; white men make such marks on the other side.

A path which brought us opposite Ntunduru Island, *blazing* the trees as a guide.—*Stanley: Through the Dark Continent.*

It is used in this sense by the up country Australians.

The last six miles of a new road into Carcoar had just been marked out and partially made by the inhabitants, expressly for the governor. It was a well chosen but rough track designated by *blazed* trees on either hand, the unbarked parts being painted white, in order to be more manifest in the dusk.—*Lieut.-Col. Munday: Our Antipodes.*

It also applies to any kind of landmark.

I picked up a stone, and *blazed* my course by breaking off a projecting corner occasionally from lava walls and festoons of sulphur.—*Mark Twain: A Strange Dream.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Blaze is an English provincialism for a white spot on a horse's forehead; and *blazed* is a term applied to a tree when marked for sale.

(General), to *blaze* away, to fire.

He *blazed* away and missed you in that shallow watercourse.—*A. L. Gordon: The Sick Stockrider.*

Blaze of triumph (theatrical), a ridiculous hyperbole, invented by the poet Bunn, to indicate a great success and crowded houses. To the initiated this usually signifies a dead failure, and a house crowded with "dead-heads."

Blazer (university), a coloured loose flannel jacket, worn as the uniform of a boating or other club; originally red, but now of the club colours, striped or coloured accordingly. The surplice worn by students in chapel on certain feast or fast days, is described as the *blazer* of the Church of England. Each club chose a different colour or combination of colours, and these combinations are something sufficiently startling to have originated the appellation.

Another fair damsel was resplendent in a scarlet *blazer* over cream-coloured flannel. Some of the striped *blazers* were very becoming. Slate and white, and black and white, were decidedly the favourites, though one daring dame had ventured on magenta.—*Modern Society.*

The effect produced by the thousands of floating and moving craft, with their occupants in brilliant *blazers* and light costumes, is quite unique of its kind.—*The Standard.*

(Prisons), a jacket worn by convicts.

If the young gentlemen do not like the convict *blazers*, they will not be allowed to take out a boat unless accompanied by a policeman.—*Funny Folks.*

Blazers (nautical), a term applied to mortar or bomb vessels, from the great emission of flame to throw a 13-inch shell.—*Admiral Smyth.*

Blazes (common). "Go to *blazes*," *i.e.*, "go to hell," is a common expression both in Great Britain and the United States, among those who are too fastidious to say the word that they mean, and are willing to go ninety-nine per cent. in the expression of profanity, making use of "by Gad," instead of "by God," "great Scott," instead of "great God," and "darned" instead of "damned."

I could have told Johnny Skae that I would not receive his communication at such a late hour, and to go to *blazes* with it.—*Mark Twain.*

Bleach, to (Harvard University, Massachusetts), to absent oneself from morning prayers. To prefer being present in the spirit rather than in the body.

Bleached mot (popular), a fair-complexioned wench.

Bleak (thieves' slang), handsome (New York Slang Dictionary).

Bleating cheat (old cant), a sheep. "Cheat," meaning a thing (gypsy), was added to a word

describing the cry of the animal, thus cackling cheat, grunting cheat, &c.

When I spoke to him, he said something about a *bleating* sheep losing a bite; but I should think this young man is not much of a talker in general.—*Macmillan's Magazine.*

Bleating cull (old cant), a sheep-stealer.

Bleating prig, sheep-stealing.

Bleating rig (old cant), sheep-stealing.

Bleed, to (English and American), to be obliged to pay money against one's will, or to oblige one to pay.

A boy lives in Pennsylvania who suffers from bleeding at intervals. He usually bleeds nine days at a time. Candidates who *bleed* three months at a time will envy him.—*San Francisco Alta.*

This is in reference to the extravagant demands made upon political candidates by "heelers" and "strikers."

Then this fine old Englishman, to crown each other deed,
Has lately shown that for our sake he did not fear to *bleed.*
A generous gift, that silver cup, in sooth you'll be agreed,
That a *cup* which bears nine handsome *mugs* is a handsome one indeed!
—*St. Helen's Lantern.*

(Printers), a book or pamphlet that is cut down so much as to touch the printed portion is said to *bleed.*

Bleeder (sporting), a sovereign; (university), a "regular *bleeder*" signifies a superlative duffer.

Bleeders (old), spurs, from their causing blood to flow by frequent use.

Bleeding the monkey (nautical). The *monkey* is a tall pyramidal rod or bucket which conveys the grog from the grog-tub to the men. Stealing from this *in transitu* is so called.—*Admiral Smyth.*

Blethers (Scottish), wind or windy; nonsense. Robert Burns jocosely laments that his business was to string up *blethers* in rhyme for fools to sing. *Bletherhead* is a loquacious fool. *Bletherumskite* is a synonymous word, but expressive of still greater contempt by the use of the word "skite" or "skyte," which signifies excrement. To *blether* or *blather* is to talk tediously and foolishly. The word is akin to "bladder," that is, filled with wind.

I hae been clean spoilt just wi' listening to twa *blethering* old wives.—*Sir Walter Scott: Old Mortality.*

Wha can ken . . . whether sic prayers as the Southron read out of their auld *blethering* black mess-book there, may not be as powerful to invite fiends, &c.—*Scott: Fortunes of Nigel.*

Blew or blue (common), to waste, to spend, to dissipate. "I *blew* a bob (I wasted a shilling)," said a costermonger, "when I went to an exhibition of pictures." To spend or lose one's money in gambling or betting.

But knock-down blows the punter knows
Are a part of his racing creed,
And he says this year he has no fear—
"The Baron *must* succeed!"

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

We think so too, and our oof we'll *blew*,
However rash the act,
For if this one's missed he will swell the list
Of the winners we might have backed.
—*Sporting Times.*

We'll polish off the malt and grog, and to have we are bound,
A jolly jug, and kiss the girls and women all around;
We'll take a stroll, and then keep it up till boxing night,
Blew all the coin—rent as well, and think we're doing right;
And if we have to pawn the clock, next day I shan't repine,
It was my father's custom, and so it shall be mine.
—*Song.*

Blimey (common), an apparently meaningless, abusive term.

C. FOR THE MOB.—As this is a court, I feel it suitable and proper to use the sort of language always used up *our* court. I therefore remark, "Liars, murderers, rascals, ghastly bloodsuckers, devils; garn hout, shet up currant-face, *blimey*," and other things which would naturally occur to a gentleman by Act of Parliament.—*An Ennobling Exhibition.*

Blind (popular), "in the *blind*," in the night, in darkness.

Then it's down with the bedstead and let us away,
Pack up all we can in the *blind*,
And long ere the morning,
Without any warning,
We'll leave back-rent and landlord behind.
—*Song.*

(Printers), a term applied to a paragraph mark ¶, owing to the fact of the eye of the P being black or filled up.

Blind cheeks (popular), posteriors, termed sometimes *blind* Cupid. The French argot calls it more appropriately *le borgne*. Another slang expression for the same part of the body is "two fat cheeks and ne'er a nose;" in French slang "un visage sans nez."

Blinder (thieves), to "take a *blinder*," to die.

Some rubber to wit had napped a winder,
And some were scragged and took a *blinder*.
—*On the Trail.*

Blindo, to (army), to die.

Blind one's trail, to (American), to act in such a way that it would be difficult to trace one's doings; putting off the scent. Thus a fox in crossing a river *blinds his trail*, water being fatal to the scent of dogs.

Blink, to (American), to drink. In Dutch thieves' slang, *blinkert* is a glass. "*Blinkert* om uit te buizen"—"To booze from a glass."

Blinker (American), a phrase fully explained by the following anecdote from a New York newspaper:—

"The term growler has become obsolete, and *blinker* has succeeded it. A waggon-load of 'supplies' was transferred to the Bedlows (prison) island boat, and among them were two two-gallon kerosene oil cans. A boat-hand remarked, 'They must be usin' lots of kerosene—them officers over there—for they gets them cans filled mighty often!' The secret was let out a few minutes later, when one of the men coming on deck with the happy smile of one who has interviewed the ardent, said to one of his companions: 'I say, Jimmy,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the *blinkers* have got good stuff this time!'"

—*Vide* BLINK.

Blinkers (pugilistic), the eyes, termed also ogles, optics, peepers, winkers. (Common), spectacles. *Blinkert*, Dutch slang, glass.

Blinko (thieves), the term is explained by the quotation.

"What is a *blinko*, for instance?" "Well, it's a kind of entertainment, singing, and that," replied the old fellow, "to which strangers are not invited—least of all the police."—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

Blizzard (American), a word of many meanings. In one of the early Crockett almanacs about 1836 it appears as distinctly meaning a shot from a rifle.

"The elder boys when they went to school carried their rifles to get a *blizzard* at anything they might meet on the road."

It has been conjectured that in this sense it was derived from blaze, or from the (Canadian) French *blesser*, to wound or hit. It was also applied to lightning at an early date. At present the tremendous wind-storms like the typhoon which sweep over the West are called *blizzards*. It possibly owes this later meaning to the German *blitz*.

With reference to the word *blizzard*, a Western correspondent sends the following:—The word was first used in Marshall, Minn., some thirteen years ago. Some friends were enjoying themselves at a public-house, when a storm of wind and snow arose, and one of the number, looking up quickly, uttered a German expression (our correspondent has forgotten the words) which sounded very much like *blizzard*. His friends took it up and have since called a storm of wind accompanied by snow a *blizzard*. Some years ago the origin of the word was sought and it was said to be Indian, and that an Indian used the expression (or one similar in sound) upon seeing some white men coming out of a severe snowstorm. — *Detroit Free Press.*

The German expression here referred to is "blitzen!"

Bloat (American), a drunkard, a drowned corpse.

Bloater (popular), "my *bloater*," a term of friendship much in favour with 'Arry, who likes his friends as much as his *bloater* for breakfast, and that is not saying a little.

But, bless yer, my *bloater*, it isn't all chin-music, vots and "ear! 'ear!"
Or they wouldn't catch me on the ready, or nail me for ninepence. No fear!
—*Punch.*

Block, the (Australian). "Doing *the block*," *i.e.*, promenade, is one of the favourite amusements of Melbourne ladies between twelve and one and five and six. *The block* is the fashionable promenade in Melbourne. *The block* is the block of buildings in Collins Street lying between Swanston Street and Elizabeth Street.

Block house (old slang), a prison, house of correction, penitentiary, and similar establishments. The expression reminds one of the French military slang term *le bloc*, an abbreviation of *blockhaus*.

Block of stock (American), an adaptation of the French term *en bloc*, meaning a large number of shares in anything, a great undivided mass, held as a single interest.

It would be comparatively easy, therefore, for a syndicate to take the control from Jay Gould, especially if Russell Sage or some other holder of a big *block of stock* were to join the movement.—*Chicago Tribune*, October 2, 1887.

Block ornaments (popular), the better kind of meat scraps sold at butchers' stalls.

On the shelves set out in front of the shop, meat scraps are offered at 1½d. the lb.; better scraps (or *block ornaments*, as they are termed) at 4d.—*Standard.*

For dinner, which on a week day is hardly ever eaten at the costermonger's abode, they buy *block ornaments*, as they call the small, dark-coloured pieces of meat exposed on the cheap butchers' blocks or counters.—*Henry Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

Also old-fashioned, queer-looking men and women.

Bloke (common), not strictly "a man," as Hotten defines it, but a man in a contemptuous sense. So the word was originally used in the police newspapers twenty-five years ago. A *bloke* was a victim of sharps, a stupid person, a greenhorn. It is not from the gypsy *loke*, a man, as Hotten asserts, *loke* not being an Anglo-Romany word. It is probably from the Dutch *blok*, a block, a log, a fool, which gives rise to *blok-ker*, a plodder, a dull fellow, and to the English *blockhead.*

The girl is stunning, the *blokes* say, so we must forgive you.—*Ouida: Held in Bondage.*

"Give us a horder, then, old *bloke*," shrieked another gamin.—*F. W. Robinson: Little Kate Kirby.*

It has another signification, which is explained by the quotation.

It came out in the course of the evidence that the meaning of the word *bloke* was "a man whom a woman might pick up in the street."—*J. Greenwood: Seven Curses of London.*

Blood (fencing). In the old back-sworded contests a *blood, i.e.*, a streak of blood on the head or face at least one inch in length, was the equivalent of a decisive "broken-head." The word *blutiger* is used in the same sense by the German students on the Mensur.

In prize-ring parlance the word is not considered sufficiently graphic, and *blood* is never mentioned except under synonyms such as "claret" (especially picturesque in connection with tapping), "Badminton" (a peculiar kind of claret cup invented at the Duke of Beaufort's seat), "ruby," "crimson," "Chateau Lafitte," &c.

Blood and entrails (nautical). This is a slang name given to the British ensign by Yankee sailors.

Blood and thunder (popular), port wine and brandy mixed.

Blood and thunder literature (American), now common in

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

England. Literature of the loudest and coarsest sensational kind, "detective" novels, romances like "Jack Sheppard" and the "Outlaw of the Plains," "Life of Buffalo Bill," &c.

One more instance of the deleterious influence of *blood and thunder fiction*. Lecomte, the man who made a most determined attempt to murder a messenger of the Bank of France the other day by plunging a bradawl into the nape of his neck, was an inveterate peruser of crimson-toned literature, his favourite authors being Ponson du Terrail, Gaboriau, and Lacenaire, the lettered murderer who emulated the deeds of Hoffman's "Cardillac" by prowling around the streets of Paris for victims.—*Paris Correspondence: Daily Telegraph.*

Blood boat (naval), a "tally boat" or bumboat, a boat employed to carry provisions from the shore.

Blood-curdler (society), a story of murder likely to make the reader's blood curdle.

It will contain two pages of interesting and absorbing turf reminiscences by ourselves and master; a *blood-curdler*, by the murderman.—*Sporting Times.*

The only one who is annoyed is our own special murder-monger, who has got several *blood-curdlers* of English extraction up his sleeve.—*Sporting Times.*

Blood for blood (trade), barter among tradesmen, who exchange with each other the commodities in which they deal.

Blood-suckers (society), extortioners, people who are constantly getting money. Derived from vampires, who are blood-suckers.

If the stay be longer, the porter and the boots expect something. A fair estimate is about two francs per diem divided between all the *blood-suckers*. Members of the Stock Exchange generally give treble this; members of the aristocracy half.—*Truth.*

(Nautical), lazy fellows, who by skulking throw their proportion of labour on the shoulders of their shipmates.—*Admiral Smyth.* In the army such fellows are styled "scrimshankers."

Bloody. Dr. C. Mackay makes the following remarks: "A word that is constantly used in the sense of sanguinary by the rudest and foulest-mouthed of the vulgar. Did these people know the harmlessness of the odious epithet, as they now understand it—if they understand it at all—they would perhaps cease to employ it, as not sufficiently coarse and disgusting to suit their ideas of the emphatic. Dean Swift, who was partially acquainted with the vernacular Gaelic of Ireland, wrote from Dublin to his friend Gay that it was '*bloody* hot'—an expression which he would not have permitted himself to use in its blackguardly English sense of sanguinary. '*Bloody* hot,' in the use made of it by Dean Swift, meant 'rather hot.'"

Mr. Charles G. Leland writes: "Mr. Hotten thinks that this is an expletive without reference to any meaning. Any one who will take the pains to look over the sanguinary words in any

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

European language can at once perceive a great deal of meaning in the association of *bloody* with evil or revolting. We find, for instance, ill or evil blood, blood-thirsty, blood-stained, bloody, in the sense of cruel or atrocious, bloody council, blood-guilty, and in German or Dutch, blood-shame or incest, a blood-revenger, bloody revenge, and in all three 'a bloody villain' for murderer, as nothing is more natural than for an adjective or adverb used in so many opprobrious meanings to take on others. The transfer of *bloody* from murderous to everything wicked or bad seems as natural as Max O'Rell's derivation of it from By'r Lady! is absurd. As R. H. Proctor remarks, in his *Americanisms* ('Knowledge'), it is 'simple nonsense.' The Germans have *blutwenig*, which has nothing to do with *blut*, 'blood;' the first component is a dialectal form of *bloss*, 'merely.'

The Earl of Suffolk gives the following definition of the word: "*Bloody*, an ornamental adjective of infinite adaptability and significance. This word is used largely though not exclusively in turf circles."

Bloody Jemmy (popular), sheep's head.

Bloody king's, a red-brick church in Barnwell (St. Mary's the Less), resembling King's College Chapel in architecture.

Bloody Mary's, the red-brick church, St. Paul's, resembling St. Mary's in Cambridge, the University church.

Bloody shirt, the (American), agitation of the war question after the Civil War.

"Chorus of mugwump, democratic, and rebel yells: Here's Blaine waving the *bloody shirt* again. The colour line is wiped out; the negro question is settled, and all Southern negroes interested in politics are democrats. Down with the sectional question!"

Bloomer (Australian), prison slang for a mistake. Abbreviated from the expression "a blooming error."

Blooming (common), used commonly for emphasising a word, but generally in an ironical manner, or to express disappointment or ruffled feelings—mild swearing, in fact. It is applied to everything from a swell to an oyster.

Heard on the course at Ascot after mounted bobby had rushed amongst horses in Prince of Wales' Stakes and completely spoiled Phil's chance of winning. Irate backer of Phil, with feeling: "Just like my *blooming* luck; a *blooming* peeler's stood in my way all my life."—*Bird o' Freedom.*

He had been tried and found guilty of murder. The day had come for his execution, and the Talepitcher and Tom Beard had made a special journey to the gallows with a Church Service and a German dictionary to hear his last words. As the fatal moment approached he turned to the hangman, in a dazed, half-conscious manner:

"What day o' the week is this?"

"Monday," replied Berry.

"Monday, is it? Well, s'whelp my good garden stuff, this is a *bloomin'* nice way to commence the week!"—*Sporting Times.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Bloomy (American), flowers; from the Dutch.

Bloss (American thieves), woman, girl, mistress; from *blossom*, old English slang.

I only piked into Grassville with a dimber-damber, who couldn't pad the hoof for a single darkman's without his *bloss* to keep him from getting pogy.—*On the Trail.*

Blot the scrip (popular), to engage to do anything by a written instrument.

Blot the scrip, and jark it (old cant), to stand surety or bail for any one.

Bloviate (American), a made up or "factitious" word, which has been used since 1850, and is perhaps older. It is irregularly used to signify verbosity, wandering from the subject, and idle or inflated oratory or blowing, by which word it was probably suggested, being partially influenced by "deviate."

Blow (university), a drunken frolic; an old slang phrase formerly much in vogue at both Oxford and Cambridge, but not much used now, such words as "spree," "tight," &c., having superseded it. Also, "to *blow*," and "to go on the *blow*." (Old cant), "He has hit the *blow*," *i.e.*, he has stolen the goods, or done the deed. (Common), a shilling.

For this I went to the Steel (Bastile—Cold Bath Fields Prison), having a new suit of clobber on me, and about fifty *blow* in my brigh (pocket). When I came out I went at the same old game.—*J. Horsley: Prison Jottings.*

Blow, blow it (American thieves' slang), to be silent, be quiet! hold your chatter! This is quite the opposite of the English slang "to blow," which means to inform on, or the common American "to blow," *i.e.*, to talk loudly and emptily.

Mac Clarty objected; giving the young man a warning look, he said, "Nixey Toohey, get out flash—*blow it*, man, *blow it!*" which meant that Mr. Mac Clarty thought that Mr. Toohey ought not to talk so much.—*Philadelphia Press*, Dec. 8, 1887.

Blow, blow on, upon (common), to expose, inform.

And she ain't got nobody but me to keep a secret for her, and I've been and *blowed on* her.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

You wouldn't *blow* an old chum among his friends, would you?—*Sam Slick: The Clockmaker.*

Depend upon it that they're on the scent down here, and that if he moved, he'd *blow upon* the thing at once.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

But I will *blow* her, he said, I will *blow* her ladyship's conduct in the business.—*Sir Walter Scott: St. Ronan's Well.*

Derived from the primary meaning *to blow*, to spread by report as if with a trumpet, to publish; or from *to blow upon*, to taint, to blast, to bring into disfavour or discredit.

Happily for him, he was not put to the bar till the first burst of popular rage had spent itself, and till the credit of the false witnesses had been *blown upon*.—*Macaulay.*

In Dutch an ear-blower, *oor-bleazer*, means an instigator,

informer, or sycophant; the French *siffler dans l'oreille* seems to be closely allied to it. (Winchester), *to blow* signifies to blush, like a rose in full bloom. (American), *to blow*, to brag, or "gas" unduly. (Old slang), "to blow the groundsels," using the floor for the purpose of sexual intercourse. (Common), "*to blow* the gaff," to reveal the secret, to "peach," to inform. The old form still in use is "to blow the gab," *i.e.*, to utter the discourse, which has more meaning in it.

Why, he scarcely knows a jimmy from a round robin, and Jack deserved the tippet for making a law with him, as all coves of his kidney "*blow* the gaff."—*On the Trail.*

Sometimes "to blow the gag," which literally signifies to blow off the metaphoric impediment which keeps one's mouth closed. *To blow off*, to treat to drinks. (Common), *blow out*, a good meal.

"That was a rare good *blow out*," soliloquises Dan, complacently recalling the taste of the savoury viands.—*Savage London.*

Blowed, to be *blowed*. This expression is a weak attempt to avoid the use of the oaths "damn" or "blast," and occurs in only such expressions as "I'll be *blowed* if I do," and many others that are continually heard from the mouths of the populace. Tom Hood was asked to contribute to a new cheap periodical for nothing, or for a small advance as he termed it upon nothing, and replied to the request that he would willingly do so in the interest of cheap literature, if his butcher and baker would act upon the same principle towards himself. He cited a letter on the subject which he had received from his butcher:—

SIR,—Respectin' your note; cheap literature be *blowed!* Butchers must live as well as other people, and if so be as you and the readin' public wants to have meat at prime cost, you must buy in our beastesses, and kill yourselves.—JOHN STOKES.

It's no shame to be defeated by Pecksniff. *Blow* Pecksniff.—*Dickens: Martin Chuzzlewit.*

Blowen (thieves), originally a showy courtesan, a prostitute, but now used more in the sense of woman, mistress.

Tramp it, tramp it, my jolly *blowen*,
Or be grabbed by the beaks we may,
And we shall caper a-heel-and-toeing
A Newgate hornpipe some fine day.
—*William Maginn*

All the most fashionable prigs, or toby-men, sought to get him into their set; and the most crack *blowen* in London would have given her ears at any time for a loving word from Bachelor Bill.—*Lytton: Paul Clifford.*

It is used with a like meaning by American thieves.

Ah, Bell! you were always the *blowen* for a rum bing.—*On the Trail.*

M. O. Davis gives the definition of "*blowen*, a showy woman, used disparagingly," which would imply that it is derived from *blown*, *i.e.*, inflated. It seems on the contrary to be used in a complimentary sense, a simile from a full-blown flower, and this poetical derivation is

borne out by the closely allied term, *blowess*, a pet, and *bloss*, a woman, from *blossom* in American thieves' lingo.

Blower (American), a noisy, talkative man, a "gas-bag." (Popular), a tobacco-pipe.

Blow in (American), another form of "blew," to spend one's money.

"Sam? Isn't he in the valley?" "Not much! Sam got two months' wages ahead, so he cracked his whip, and went off on a bend." "To *blow in?*" Jake laughed assent.—*Saddle and Moccasin.*

"To *blow in* one's pile," to spend one's money, to pay.

I had "*blown in* my pile"
On the strength of his tip,
The name of the horse
Was on many a lip;
But I learnt, ere sunset, to my sorrow
That there's slips twixt the cup and the lip.
—*Turf, Field, and Farm.*

Blowing (Australian, popular), boasting, bragging.

The public-houses presented a very busy sight, and judging by the bars it seemed that when men were not eating, sleeping, or working, they were drinking grog and boasting (or *blowing*, in colonial parlance) of some feat which they had performed, or of the particular merits of some horse, bullock, dog, or man.—*Grant: Bush Life.*

The metaphor probably is "*blowing* one's own trumpet," if indeed it be not simply an abbreviation, Australian slang being given to abbreviations of all kinds. Anthony Trollope gave a good deal of offence in Australia by speaking of *blowing* as a national failing out there.

(American), "*blowing* his bazoo," *blowing* his own trumpet, boasting. From the Dutch *bazu*, abbreviation of *bazuin*, a trumpet or trombone, "*Jemands lof bazuynen*," to sound one's (own) praise. (Thieves), "*blowing* out a red light," stealing a gold watch, a white light being a silver watch. (Nautical), "*blowing* great guns and small arms," heavy gales, a hurricane; "*blowing* the grampus," throwing water over a man on watch who has fallen asleep.

Blown together (tailors), garments badly made are said to have been *blown together*.

Blow out (common), an entertainment or feast.

"She sent me a card for a *blow out*," said Mowbray, "and so I am resolved to go."—*Sir Walter Scott: St. Ronan's Well.*

Synonyms are "spread," "flare up."

Blow up (common), so universally used as to have almost ceased to be slang; to vehemently scold, reprimand.

The other day some poor fellow married a somewhat faded beauty, and one of his former acquaintances inquired how the newly-wedded pair were getting on. "Very indifferent," was the reply. "She's always *blowing him up*." "I'm not surprised at that," said the first. "Look at the amount of powder she carries about her."—*Ally Sloper's Half Holiday.*

To give a *blowing up* is synonymous.

(Workmen), to *blow up* (*i.e.*, to sound the whistle), is to call

the men to work; used by foremen and gaugers.

Blowsy (common), wild, disordered, dishevelled, generally applied to the hair of a woman when unkempt, disarranged, and streaming over her forehead and face. "Blowsabella" is the name given to a personage in an ancient mock-heroic poem.

Blub (popular), an abbreviation of to "blubber," to cry like a child with noise and slavering.

Don't be a fool and *blub*, Jim, it's a darned good thing for you,
You'll find a mate as can carry and I'll play the music too.
—*George R. Sims: Ballads of Babylon.*

Blubber (popular), the mouth; to "sport *blubber*" is said of a large coarse woman who exposes her bosom; *blubber* and guts, obesity; *blubber*-belly, a fat person; *blubber*-head, a stupid person. (Nautical), *blubber* boiler, a whaling vessel. (Common), *blubber* cheeks, large flaccid cheeks hanging like the fat or *blubber* of a whale. The term has ceased to be slang.

Bluchers (Winchester), college prefects with only "half" power, which means they can only "fag" men in "hall" or "chambers."

The remaining eight college prefects (called in Winchester tongue *bluchers*) have a more limited authority, confined to chambers and the quadrangle. —*Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine.*

Bludgers (thieves), fellows who do not hesitate to use the bludgeon.

Bludget, a low female thief who decoys her victims into alleyways, &c., to rob them (New York Slang Dictionary). *Bludger* (English slang), a man who uses violence in robbery; it has possibly some connection with the old Dutch slang word *bolletje*, a man or master. "Volmaakt, bolletje, volmaakt!"

Blue (common). This word enters into several slang phrases, not only English but of other nationalities.

To be in "the *blues*," to have a "fit of the *blues*" (in French *broyer du noir*), to be afflicted with "*blue* devils," to drink till "all is *blue*," "to be partial to *blue* ruin," "to look *blue*," "to cry *blue* murder," are all familiar phrases of ancient origin and modern prevalence. "Du vin *bleu*," and "petit *bleu*," are used by the French to signify thin, sour, unwholesome wine, terms which owe their origin to a similar association of ideas.

In some of those with melancholy meanings, there is an evident connection between *blue* as a colour, and the idea of grief, disappointment. Thus the French have the expression, "En voir de *bleues*," to meet with great disappointment, annoyance, sufferings, a variant of "En voir de grises." "En bailler tout *bleu*," to be gaping with astonishment at some news or act which arouses one's indignation, from the livid hue of the face.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Charles G. Leland makes the following remarks :—

"*Blue*, English popular slang, but somewhat extended in the United States. When this word is used to denote extremes, as 'to drink till all is *blue*,' 'a dyed in the wool *blue* Presbyterian,' 'true-*blue*' in political opinions or honesty, it would appear that its origin is possibly maritime. *Blue* water was till a recent period always described as off or out of soundings, so that, like the sky, it suggests no end. It is remarkable that in both German and Dutch the same idea of extremity is connected with *blue*. An utterly bad, pitiful result in the latter is 'Een *blauwe* uytvlugt.' In the last extremity of dead drunkenness, or in the swoons of a man in the *delirium tremens*, a *blue* sky or atmosphere seems to gather round the victim, in which a luminous point appears, which 'seems to come directly at him,' as the writer has heard it described. To look *blue* is probably derived, like *blue*-noses, from cold, or from approaching death, which latter would sufficiently account for the relation of *blue* to despair, despondency, and misery."

"Now, shendlemens, I sings you a song of mine own vot I translade from de Sherman of Schiller" :—

Dere is an oldt saying, und I peliefe id is true,
Dot ven a man dies his fingers toorn *plue*,
His fingers toorn *plue* by de light of de moon,
Und vy shouldn't efery man enjoy his own room?
Gorus.—Room, poys, room, by de light of de moon,
Und vy shouldn't efery man enjoy his own room?
—*Yale College Song.*

"*Blue* devils and red monkeys are said by the experienced to be the characteristic apparitions which haunt drunkards."

(Common), to talk *blue*, to talk immodestly, or libidinously. "A bit of *blue*," an obscene or libidinous anecdote. "A brown conversation" and "a brown study" is used in the contrary sense, and means seriously, gravely, and decently.

(Oxford and Cambridge). a man is said to get his *blue* (that is, the right to wear the University colour) when he represents his University against the rival university, in the annual boat-race, cricket-match, athletic sports, or football matches.

Blue, blew, to (common), to pawn or pledge, to spend or lose one's money at gambling, to waste money generally. Varied to *blew*, from the phrase "blown in," which refers to money that has been spent, as in the phrase, "I 'blewed' all my tin." For another derivation see BLEWED.

He'd a rooted aversion to everything blue.
And so innately modest was he
That he blushed when his optics encountered a view
Of the broadly cerulean sea.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

He adored modest maidens of charming eighteen,
But blue-stockings he'd always eschew,
And he carried his tastes to the verge of the mean—
He had oof, which he never would *blew*.
—*Sporting Times.*

"*To blew* a job," to make a mess of a business; from to blow in the sense of make worthless; (thieves), *to blew*, to steal; "*blewed* of his red 'un," *i.e.*, his watch stolen from him. "I've been *blewed* of my skin," I've been robbed of my purse.

Blue-apron (common), a *blue-apron* statesman. "A lay politician, a tradesman who interferes with the affairs of the nation. The reference is to the blue apron once worn by almost all tradesmen, but now restricted to butchers, poulterers, fishmongers, and so on" (Dr. Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable).

Blue bill (Winchester), every "man" in "Commoners," that is, school, in contradistinction to college, has his tradesman's bills enclosed in a *blue* envelope given to him by the head-master on the last evening of the half, after "prepes" or prayers, at 8.45 P M., in "Mugging Hall." (See this word.)

Blue Billy (popular), the handkerchief (blue ground with white spots) sometimes worn and used as a colour at prize-fights. Also the refuse ammoniacal lime from gas factories (Hotten).

Blue blanket (vagrants), explained by quotation:—

The vagabond brotherhood have several slang terms for sleeping out in a field or meadow. It is called "snoozing in Hedge Square," "dossing with the daisies," and "lying under the *blue blanket*."—*J. Greenwood: Under the Blue Blanket.*

The French have the equivalent "Coucher à l'hôtel de l'Étoile." (Popular), a large rough coat, a pilot coat.

Blue-blazer (American), a fancy drink of sugar, hot water, and spirits, but made in a peculiar manner.

Blue-blazes (common), hell. As there is probably no man who has ever heard of hell who has not been taught to associate it with burning sulphur or brimstone, the expression does not seem to be so meaningless as some writers suppose. (Popular), spirituous liquors.

Blue boar (old cant), the vulgar term for a venereal disease.

Blue-bottle (general), a policeman, a constable, termed also a "blue devil."

The Bobby's big boot, though, is nudging her now,
And she sleepily stutters, "All right! Whatsh th' row?"
Then the buzz of the *blue bottle's* borne on the breeze—
"Now move yourself, 'Liza! Come, pass along, please!"
—*Sporting Times.*

It occurs in Shakspeare in the Second Part of King Henry IV., where Doll Tearsheet calls the beadle "a *blue-bottle* rogue." Most etymologists agree

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

in ascribing the appellation to the colour of a policeman's uniform. The term was formerly applied to servants dressed in blue liveries. The police force is sometimes spoken of as the "blues." The old French city police were termed by thieves *les verts*, from their green uniforms, and nowadays a French rogue will talk of *les serins* (canaries), *i.e.*, *gendarmes*, with yellow facings. The rebel *chouans* called the Republican soldiers *les bleus*. The Austrians and the English were respectively styled *les blancs* and *habits rouges* by French soldiery. Again, "blue bellies" was a term applied by the Confederate soldiery during the Civil War to the Federals, on account of their blue gaberdines, and the latter dubbed their adversaries "grey-backs." Many other examples might be given in support of the above derivation of *blue-bottles*.

Blue boy (popular), a bubo.

Blue butter (popular), mercurial ointment.

Blue cheek (popular), explained by quotation.

There were three fashions for whiskers when I was a child, and they were variously known as *blue cheek*, the whisker shaved off and leaving the cheek blue; "bacca pipe," the whisker curled in tiny ringlets); and "touzle," or whisker worn bushy.—*J. Greenwood: Outcasts of London.*

Blue flag (popular), a blue apron worn by butchers, greengrocers, &c. "He has hoisted the *blue flag*."

Blue funk (English and American), extreme fright.

It put me in a regular *blue funk*.—*Punch.*

Blue moon (proverbial), an undefined period, used in the phrase, "Once in a *blue moon*."

Blue murders (popular), a great and unusual noise. To call *blue murders*, to call out loudly. "If you hit me again I'll call out *blue murders*."

Blue noses (Americanism), natives of Nova Scotia.

"Pray, sir," said one of my fellow-passengers, "can you tell me the reason why the Nova Scotians are called *blue noses?*" "It is the name of a potato," said I, "which they produce in the greatest perfection, and boast to be the best in the world. The Americans have in consequence given them the nickname of *blue noses*."—*Haliburton: Sam Slick.*

Blue peter (nautical), the signal for sailing when hoisted at the foretop mast-head. This well-known flag has a blue ground with a white square in the centre (Admiral Smyth).

The *blue peter* has long been flying at my foremast, and . . . now I must soon expect the signal for sailing.—*Justin M'Carthy: A History of Our Own Times.*

This expression is also applied to the call for trumps in whist.

Blue pigeon (thieves), the lead on roofs; to fly or shoot the *blue pigeon*, to steal lead off

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the roofs of buildings. (Nautical), a nickname for the sounding lead.

Blue pill (American), a bullet. Lead has long been termed *bluey* in England, and death by a bullet *blue* murder, but the enormous consumption of *blue pills* or calomel in the United States renders it possible that the simile originated there.

Oc . That if he did so he would be re- ‹ wed with a welcome from a horse-pistol. To wi.ch the answer was, "Hev got a mountain howitzer witch karrys a fore-pound (4 lb.) ball, and I intend to blow you and your house to hel before I begin on your turkers. So come on with your pistil and *blue pil.*—*Knickerbocker Magazine.*

Blue plumbs (thieves), bullets.

No rapture can equal the tobyman's joys,
To blue devils *blue plumbs* give the go-by.
—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

Blue ribbon (racing), the term is only applied to the Derby.

Melton, who won the *blue ribbon* after one of the most exciting finishes.—*Illustrated London News.*

Blue ruin (popular), gin of inferior quality. Termed also "blue ribband."

His ear caught the sound of the word *morbleu!*
Pronounced by the old woman under her breath;
Now, not knowing what she could mean by blue death,
He conceived she referred to a delicate brewing,
Which is almost synonymous, namely, *blue ruin.*
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

A tumbler of *blue ruin* fill, fill for me!
Red tape those as likes it may drain,
But whatever the lush, it a bumper must be.
—*Lord Lytton: Paul Clifford.*

Dr. Brewer gives the explanation: "*Blue*, from its tint, and *ruin*, from its effects." Compare as regards similes of colour "red tape," red wine; "petit bleu," coarse red wine; "une verte" or "perroquet," a glass of absinthe (which is green); "une brune," a glass of porter; "une blonde," a glass of ale; "une jaune," a dram of brandy; "une dame blanche," a bottle of white wine; "pivois savonné," white wine; "négresse," bottle of red wine. And with respect to pernicious effects, "breaky leg," strong drink; "eau-de-mort, casse-poitrine, tord-boyaux," rank brandy. The term *blue ruin* must have been coined by sober people, or by repentant drunkards, whilst those otherwise inclined gave it the fond appellation of "white velvet," or "white satin," unconsciously imitated by French dram-drinkers, when, after having tossed off some horrible stuff in an *assommoir*, they fervently ejaculate, "C'est un velours, quoi!"

Blues (common), the Royal Horse Guards; the Bluecoat school; the crews of the 'Varsity boat race—the dark *blues* being the Oxford men, and the light *blues* those from Cambridge; the police force.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Well, what's the row . . .
Or whether this here mobbing, as some longish heads foretell it,
Will grow to such a riot that the Oxford *blues* must quell it?
—*Hood Row at the Oxford Arms.*

(Society), "a fit of the *blues*" means a fit of depression; it is abbreviated from the "*blue* devils," which are supposed to appear to a man suffering from *delirium tremens*.

She had attracted him for a while, but his strong good common sense, as well as his strong healthy body and robust habits, soon carried him out of the *blues* he had for a while fallen into.—*Lucy Farmer; or, Chronicles of Cardew Manor.*

Blue skin (West Indian), the child of a black woman by a white man. The name of a mulatto, one of the characters of Ainsworth's "Jack Sheppard."

Blue squadron, one of the (East Indian), a person having a cross of the Indian breed.

Blue the screw, to (popular), to spend one's salary.

He buys her gloves and dresses new,
And stands her dinners down at Kew;
In fact on her *blues all his screw*;
Which some day he will sadly rue.
—*The Gaiety Masher: Broadside.*

Bluey (thieves), lead. (Australian), a bushman's bundle, the outside wrapper of which is generally a blue blanket (Murray).

Bluff, to (American, low), to put down by a bold front, to oppose by "cheek" or effrontery.

I did not care if it took me a week; I was not going to be *bluffed* by them.—*North of England Advertiser.*

German, *blüffen*. The eleventh commandment among thieves in Germany is "Du sollst Dich nicht *verblüffen* lassen"—"Don't let yourself be *bluffed*." Dutch *blafferd*, a snarling fellow; *bloffen*, to bark at. Also Dutch, *verbluffen*, to put out of countenance, to face down.

(Patterers' slang), an excuse, a pretence.

There is a strong suspicion among men whose heads are level that the mirabel variety performance is a *bluff* of [illegible] "messenger" to keep from the public the real motives of the murders.—*Bret Harte: Gabriel Conroy.*

Bluffer (provincial), an innkeeper, or landlord of a public-house. (Nautical), a boatswain of a ship.

Bluffing (American, cards), betting high on poor cards at poker, in the hopes of frightening the other players into going out. A crafty player will often allow himself to be called for a small *bluff*, so as to establish a reputation for doing it, in order to lie by and win a good stake when he has a really good hand, on which he has thus induced his antagonists to suppose that he is *bluffing*. The English equivalent for this term is "bragging."

Blunderbuss (popular), a stupid, blundering fellow.

Blunt (thieves), money.

When the slow coach paused, and the gemmen storm'd,
I bore the brunt—

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

And the only sound which my grave lips form'd
Was *blunt*—still *blunt!*
—*Lord Lytton: Paul Clifford.*

"Take care of your watches, gentlemen!" said the polite policeman, endeavouring to divide the mob.

"Take care of your *Blunt*, you devils!" yelled the gallant Primrose Leaguer, who had come to see the fun.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

By some the word is derived from Mr. John Blunt, the chairman of the South Sea Company, the famous bubble by which a few fortunes were won, and many fortunes were lost, in 1720. By others it is thought that the word originated in the French *blond*. But *blunt* (sometimes varied to *the blunt*) is more probably derived, as the latter appellation implies, from an allusion to the blunt rim of coins or to their hardness, as in the phrase "hard cash," "soft" being bank notes, and "stiffs" cheques or bills.

Blunted (popular, and thieves), possessed of money.

Bly-hunka (tinker), a horse.

B. N. C., Brasenose College, Oxford.

Board, to (military), to borrow.

Board him (nautical), a colloquialism for I'll ask, demand, or accost him (Admiral Smyth). Shakspeare makes Polonius say of Hamlet:—

"I'll *board him* presently."

To "*board him* in the smoke," means to take a person by surprise, from the simile of firing a broadside and taking advantage of the smoke to board.

Boarding school (old cant), the name given by thieves and similar characters to Newgate or any other prison. "To go to *boarding school*" was to go to gaol. French thieves call a prison "pal" "un aminche de *collège*."

Boat (thieves), originally to transport, the term is now applied to penal servitude. To "get the *boat*" or to "be *boated*" is to be sentenced to a long term of imprisonment equivalent to transportation under the old system (Hotten). To *boat* with one is to be a partner in some crime, to be an accomplice.

"Does he *boat* with you?" "Yes, and he's an artist. Only last night, down at the Albany break-up, he buzzed a bloke and a shakester of a reader."—*On the Trail.*

(Military), a good *boat* is a soldier who spends his money freely with his poorer comrades.

Bob (general), a shilling. Origin unknown. Perhaps from a simile in allusion to the meaning of *bob*, formerly bait for fish, the coin being looked upon in the light of a bribe. "Bobstick," old slang for a shilling, would in that case be the fishing-rod. Compare with "palm-oil," both money and bribe, and the French slang *huile de mains*, same meaning. Also with *graisse*, money, from the phrase "graisser

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

la patte," to bribe. It is curious to note that *bob* is a blow, and "blow" slang for a shilling.

The jolliest fellow you ever met
Is a dismal man at home;
The wittiest girl in society's set
Will with headaches her wit atone.
The man whose graces a court would adorn
Is tied to a desk from night till morn;
And the man who would lend his last *bob* to a friend
Never has the first *bob* to lend.
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Popular), *bob!* stop! the response to the request "say when," while spirits are being poured into one's glass.

"*Bob* a nob," a shilling a head.

Bob, in old slang, signified a shoplifter's assistant, to whom the stolen goods were passed, and who carried them away. "All is *bob*," *i.e.*, all is safe. From a Cornwall term *bob*, pleasant, agreeable. A variant of "all gay," and "all serene." "To shift one's *bob*," to go away.

(Public schools), "dry *bob*," a boy who devotes himself to cricket or football, or any other games on "dry land," in opposition to "wet *bob*," one who gives himself up to boating.

The friendly rivalry between England and America led some while ago to a contest between the "wet *bobs*," to use an Eton phrase, of either country, and it was only fair that the "dry *bobs*" should show what they could do.—*T. Ogilvie: Imperial Dictionary of the English Language.*

"Dry *bob*" also refers to fruitless coition.

Resolved to win, like Hercules, the prize . . .
The cheating jilt, at the twelfth, a *dry bob* cries.
—*Earl of Rochester's Works.*

Bob my pal (rhyming slang), a "gal," girl.

Bobachee (Anglo-Indian), a cook; a vulgar or slang form of *bā-warchī*, a high dignitary at the Mongol court, a taster and carver to some great man. *Bobbachy canvah*, cook-house.—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Bobber (popular), a fellow-workman, mate. Also a variant of "bob," as in the phrase "two *bobber*," a florin.

So down I gets and finds a two *bobber*. My mate gives me the wink, but the slavey's on the job, so I say, "Oh, miss, if I ain't found a two *bobber*."—*Sporting Times.*

Bobbery (Anglo-Indian). This word comes from the East, but its origin is doubtful. The authors of the "Anglo-Indian Glossary" declare that it is common for Hindus when in surprise or grief to exclaim, *Bapre!* or *Bapre bap!* "Oh, Fathers!" This is imitated in Anglo-Indian by *Bobbery Bob!* Ladies in the United States also sometimes exclaim, "Fathers!" with or without "merciful," or "good" as a prefix. *Bobbery* generally signifies a row, a disturbance. It is even more common as "bobbely" in pidgin English, but it is very doubtful indeed whether it originated, as some think, in the Cantonese *pa-pi*, a noise.

NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF INDIA

I'll bet a wager there'll be a *bobbery* in the pigsty before long.—*Marryat: Peter Simple.*

It also means in India "pack," a pack of hounds or dogs of all kinds without distinction.

What a Cabinet has put together—a regular *bobbery*-pack.—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Bobbin (common). "That's the end of the *bobbin*." A phrase equivalent to saying, "That's the end of it," when all the thread is wound off a *bobbin* or spool. The French say "être au bout de son *rouleau*." (American), *bobbin' around*, a slang phrase meaning going about, here and there, casually. It rose from the refrain of a song which was popular in 1850. In another lyric the following allusion was made to a report that the King of Belgium had proposed marriage to Miss Burdett-Coutts and been rejected.

So the King of the Belgines went in and
got sold
When he hoped for a fortune in silver and
gold,
Which shows that great mon-i-archs some-
times are found
Runnin' after rich ladies and *bobbin'*
around.

If I ketch him *bobbin' round* arter our Nancy here agin, I'll just set the dorgs on him—though I don't believe a decent dorg would want to bite such an everlasting slink as he is.—*Sunday Paper.*

Bobbing around is evidently a variation on "bobbing up and down," rising and falling, here and there, like a fisherman's bob in the water.

Bobbing (public schools), "dry *bobbing*" applies to all sports on terra firma, and "wet *bobbing*" to aquatics.

Bobbish (common), smart, spruce, or in good order, fair. From a Cornwall term *bob*, pleasant, agreeable.

"'Ow are yer, pretty *bobbish?*" "I'm much as usual, thankee."—*Punch.*

Bobbles (popular), the testicles. From the same word signifying in Cornwall, stones, pebbles.

Bobby (general), a policeman; otherwise "peeler, cop, or copper, blue-bottle, pig, reeler, crusher, frog, fly-cop," &c.

The cook, she, when
The *bobby's* on his beat,
Oft lightens master's larder
Of the pudding and the meat.
—*Song.*

"If you want a thing done, you should
do it yourself,"
Is an excellent maxim, no doubt in its
way;
But, when citizens willingly part with their
pelf,
They're entitled to claim some return
for their pay.
Bull does not pay *Bobbies* to lounge on
their beats,
And leave him at last to look after his
streets.
—*Punch.*

Some thirty years ago the man in blue (journalistic) was still sometimes called "*bobby* peeler," a fact which bears out the generally admitted origin of *bobby* from Sir Robert Peel, to whom the establishment of the force was due, in 1829, and who replaced the old "Charlies" (so called from Charles I., in

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

whose reign the system was reorganised), who then acted as constables and night-watchers in the metropolis. According to Hotten, the official square-keeper, who is always armed with a cane to drive away idle and disorderly urchins, has, time out of mind, been called by the same urchins, "*bobby* the beadle."

Bobby twister (thieves' slang), a burglar who would hesitate at nothing, even to shooting any policeman who might be endeavouring to capture him. A noted *bobby twister* was the famous burglar Peace, whose diurnal avocations were certainly in keeping with his name, as he was considered a highly respectable citizen. He was, or pretended to be, a teetotaller, and, it is said, a member of the Salvation Army. His respectability ended on the gallows.

Bob-cull (thieves), good fellow.

"Where be you going, you imp of the world?" cried the dame. "Get in with you, and say no more on the matter; be a *bob-cull*—drop the bullies, and you shall have the blunt!"—*Lytton: Paul Clifford.*

Bob is a provincial term, signifying pleasant, agreeable.

Bobs (schools), huge beer jugs.

Only those "juniors" attended whose office it was to bring away the portions of bread and cheese and *bobs* of beer for consumption in the afternoon.—*T. A. Trollope: What I Remember.*

Bobstick (old), a shilling. *Vide* BOB.

Bobtail (old slang), a licentious, immodest woman of the very lowest character. One who exposed her person in public. Also an impotent *debauchee.*

Bob White (American), a popular but not a slang name for the quail, whose notes are supposed to resemble the words *Bob-White*, with a pause between the two words and a strong accent on the *White*. It is just two-thirds of the song of the whip-poor-will.

The American farmer has watched his birds through the cycle of the year; has listened to the "Ah *Bob White!* ah *Bob White!*" that with the fall of the apple-blossoms begins to fill the air.—*Macmillan's Magazine.*

Bodier (pugilistic), a blow on the sides of the body, otherwise known as a "rib-roaster."

Bodkin (common), an old word still in use, with the sense of dirk, dagger. (Sporting), a person who takes his turn between the sheets on a night when the hotel has twice as many visitors as it can comfortably lodge (Hotten's Dictionary). (Common), to "ride *bodkin*," any one sitting between two others in a carriage, is said to "ride *bodkin.*"

Then he called a hansom, and expressing his willingness to "be the *bodkin*" (*Anglicè*, ride in the middle), ordered the jehu to drive to Middlesex Street.—*Sporting Times.*

Body-slangs (thieves' cant), fetters for the body.

Body-slangs are of two kinds.

Each consists of a heavy iron ring to go round the waist, to which are attached in one case two bars or heavy chains, connected with the fetters round the ankles, in the other case a link at each side attached to a handcuff. Into these the wrists are locked, and thus held down to the prisoner's sides. The latter are now only to be found in museums.—*Vaux.*

Body snatcher (old), a bailiff or runner; a violator of the grave; an undertaker.

Bog (prison), the farm works at Dartmoor, where much land has been reclaimed. *Bog* gang, the party of convicts detailed for this work. (Common), a privy. Originally printers' slang, but now very common. "To *bog*," to ease oneself. (Tinker), see BOGH.

Bogey, often called **bug-aboo**, a word existing in different forms in many languages. As both God and Devil may be found in *Deus*, *Devas*, divine, *Diabolus* and the gypsy *Duvel* or *Devlis* (both meaning God only), so we have the divinity as *Bog* in Russian, and in the Celtic *bug*, a spirit or spectre, while in English *bugge* or *bug* is in two senses a terror, as the famous Bugge Bible and Spenser's "Faerie Queene" bear witness. The *bogey* or *bug-aboo* is an imaginary horror or monster with which vulgar, wicked, or foolish people were, and perhaps still are, accustomed to frighten children at night. It is probable that *aboo* is the common old Irish war-cry, which was said to be so terrifying that it was formerly prohibited by law. This *aboo* was well-known and much talked of during the time of Elizabeth. On August 2, 1887, Mr. Courtney in Parliament invented a new form of the word.

Mr. Courthey, though a partisan of the undertaking, urged that a division should be taken at once to save time. He described the speech of Baron H. de Worms as a combination of *bogeyism* and fogeyism. (A laugh.) Mr. W. H. Smith and Mr. J. Morley joined in the appeal to close the discussion.—*Saint James's Gazette.*

(Common), one's landlord, called by the French "Monsieur Vautour." (Studios), a painting is said to be *bogey* when sombre tints predominate.

Bogh (tinker), to get, hold, make work. This appears to be a very general sort of a verb.

Bog oranges (common), potatoes, from the fact that potatoes form the chief diet of Irish peasants.

Bog-trotter (now recognised), an Irish peasant. "Bog-trotting," applied to an Emeralder, or to any one who lives among marshy moors.

The impudent *bog-trotting* scamp dare not threaten me!—*Thackeray: Pendennis.*

Bogue, to (American), to apply one's self very earnestly, to make every effort. "I don't git much done without I *bogue* right in

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

along with the men" (Bartlett). *Boege*, a bow, or a course in Dutch, is used [redacted] deceit, fraud.

[redacted] a transla- the [redacted] deal of [redacted] *Yale College Magazine.*

[redacted] es unearthed by Mr. [redacted] ugh is purported to be signed by [redacted] less than thirteen racehorses!—*Funny Folks.*

The story which derives the name from one *Borghese*, who a generation ago flooded the West with counterfeit money, is, like most American derivative stories given in newspapers, extremely doubtful. As soon as an expression becomes popular, ingenious artists in literary *supercheries* at once manufacture for it a history. *Bogus* is from a cant term applied to counterfeit coin. This word is widely current in the United States, whence it has been recently imported by English newspaper writers. Among the tinklers or tinkers, a kind of Scottish gypsies, *bogus* means counterfeit coin, from *bogh*, to make, and the Romany termination *us*. Wilson declares that there are numbers of these tinkers in America. Dr. C. Mackay is of opinion that it was introduced in America by Irish immigrants from *boc*, pronounced

Boiled shirt (Australian diggers) a clean shirt or "clean biled rag," as Mark Twain puts it, boiling being a primitive way of washing shirts.

John rode home with a depressed mind. As he passed the public-house which had proved the lion in the old man's path, he saw the publican, a bloated, greasy-faced man, a villainous low forehead, and a prize-fighting look, walking up and down the verandah in a *boiled shirt.—A. C. Grant.*

Boiler-plated (American) originated in iron-clad. Utterly impenetrable, irresistible, not to be affected.

He gave me a look of *boiler-plated* reproach, clapped on his hat, and was off without another word.—*Mr. and Mrs. Bowser.*

Boilers (Royal Military Academy), boiled potatoes as opposed to "greasers," fried potatoes.

Boiling or **biling** (common), the "whole *boiling*," the whole party, or entire quantity.

The last mile, he said, tho' the shortest one of the whole *bilin'*, took the longest to do it in by a jug full.—*Sam Slick: The Clockmaker.*

A phrase [illegible] from [illegible]

[illegible] somet[illegible] gridiron [illegible] party. The latter is Irish.

Boilum tea (pidgin), to boil tea.

Blongy my dis tim *boilum you tea*, mumpa one first chop *fitee-fitee!* (quick!) Talkee dat sa-van (servant) he is savvy how *boilum tea.*—*Pidgin Talkee.*

Boko (common), a nose.

An expert in nazography declares that a pale nose usually belongs to the selfish, cold-hearted man; whilst the highly-coloured *boko* is characteristic of the sanguine temperament usually possessed by the man who is hopeful that a free drink is looming in the distance.—*Fun.*

Originally a large nose, possibly from *beak*, old slang for a nose, or from the old English *boche*, *boke*, a swelling.

Boler, bowler (Winchester), stiff felt hat or pot hat.

Bolly (Marlborough) is used by the pupils with the signification of pudding.

Bolt, to (colloquial), to make a sudden and rapid movement, for haste, alarm, perplexity, or other cause of expedition. To *bolt* one's food is to swallow without mas[illegible] *bolt* is to run away, [illegible] *bolt*, but penal servitude.

"Long Bill expects *bolt*" informs the sympathetic or rejoicing reader that one William —— expects to be sentenced to penal servitude.—*Rev. J. W. Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Bolted (nautical), "I've been through the mill, ground and *bolted*." That is, "You can't gammon me; I'm too old a bird to be caught with chaff." *Bolted* in this case signifies sifted.

Bolt-in-tun (London thieves), bolted, run away, got away, one of the puns that cant and slang are so fond of. *Cf.* "COBBLER," "BILLIARD SLUM," &c.

Vaux in his Memoirs says:—"A term founded on the cant word 'bolt,' and merely a fanciful variation very common among *flash* persons, there being in London a famous inn so called. It is customary when a man has run away from his lodgings, broken out of jail, or made any other sudden move-

ment, to say 'the *Bolt-in-tun* is concerned,' or 'he's gone to the *Bolt-in-tun*,' i. e. exactly in this sense, as "net over alle *bogen* wenden," to try everything, to leave no stone unturned. Also in Dutch *bogen*, to pride one's self on employing energy in action.

Bogus (American), anything like a sham, a fraud, a counterfeit, or a humbug *Bogus* money, *bogus* banks, &c.

One of the *bogus* petitions in favour of the coal and wine duties, Bradbeam has called the bummelo or bumbalow, which is caught on the Indian coasts. When dried it forms the well-known *Bombay ducks*, seen so frequently among grocers' delicacies in England.

Bombo (nautical), weak, cold punch.

Bona (theatrical), good, varied to "rumbo."

Bonanza (American), a Spanish word, originally applied to profit, benefit. A profitable silver mine or a share in it is a *bonanza*. Now applied generally to money.

At last the train came, and the guard on the train handed me a heavily-sealed envelope, remarking as he did so—

"Be careful of that, Branthwaite. There's a *bonanza* in that package if it were yours or mine."

"Money?' I asked.

"Yes; twenty thousand dollars."—*American Story.*

But a *bonanza* with millions in it is not struck every week.—*Scribner's Monthly.*

Bonas (popular), belles. The difference between donnas and *bonas*, is thus stated in a music-

Bohn (Yale College), a tion, or a pony from *Bohn*, name of well-known London publishers, who issued a series of translations of the Classics, the use of these becoming very common in the States; a *Bohn* was generally adopted as a name for a translation.

'Twas plenty of skin with a good size *Bohn*. boys.

—*Songs of the Jubilee.* nor head, *bille*, literally a marble, bears out this derivation.

Bone (American), a fee; to *bone*, to pay a fee, or rather bribe, called *bone*, at the custom-house to induce the officials not to examine passengers' luggage, or to let it off lightly. From the slang *bone*, derived either from the French *bon*, or, as Murray suggests, from the middle English *boon*. This word is used with the sense of good by English vagabonds. ◇, their hieroglyphic for the word, chalked by them on houses and street corners as a hint to succeeding beggars.

(Masonic), a corruption of the Hebrew word for builder.

(Common), to *bone*, to steal, to pilfer, to purloin. Probably derived from *bon*, good, or, by extension of meaning, to seize on a good thing.

The while within the pocket of her gown
Childe Alice deftly placed the purse she'd *boned*.

NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF INDIA

Alas! its contents were not worth a "brown;"
His winnings all were "stumers," and she groaned.
"The world is too much with us!" poor Childe Alice moaned.
—*Bird of Freedom.*

This word, according to the Glossary of Cant in Bampfyled Moore Carew, also signifies to apprehend, to arrest, to take into custody, to "nab." Compare with the French cant phrase "être le bon," which has the same meaning.

(American cadets), to study hard; possibly a playful allusion to the more universal slang meaning of the verb "to *bone*," the meaning of course being to convey the idea of acquiring knowledge by *force*—an appropriate reading of the word for the cadets of West Point—but more probably from Bohn's translations. For other derivation, see BOONDER.

Bone box (old slang), the mouth; the teeth are now called the "ivories."

Bone-crusher (South African), a heavy bore rifle for killing big game.

African game require *bone-crushers;* for any ordinary carbine possesses sufficient penetrative quality, yet has not the disabling quality which a gun must possess to be useful in the hands of an African explorer.—*H. Stanley: How I found Livingstone.*

Boned (thieves), taken into custody. To *bone* is to take what does not belong to one. There is therefore a world of dry humour in the thief saying that he has been *boned* or stolen by the policeman when taken into custody.

Tell us how you was *boned*, signifies tell us the story of your apprehension, a common request among fellow-prisoners in a jail, which is readily complied with as a rule; and the various circumstances therein related afford present amusement and also useful hints for regulating their future operations, so as to avoid the like misfortune.—*Vaux.*

Bone-grubber (common), a person who hunts for bones in dust-holes, or any spot where refuse is thrown.

The *bone-grubber* and the mud-lark differ little in their pursuits.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

The term was also applied to a resurrectionist. Cobbett was therefore called a *bone-grubber* because he brought the remains of Tom Paine from America (Hotten).

Bone-lazy (common), excessively or hopelessly lazy.

Boneless, a ghost, a shadowy and impalpable spectre or apparition.

Bone muscle, to (American cadets), to frequent the gymnasium; frequently to take exercise there.

Bone-picker (common), a footman.

Boner (Winchester), a blow given with the fist on the lowest vertebra.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Bones (medical), the *bones* of the human skull. "Do you know your *bones?*" *i.e.*, are you familiar with the anatomy of the human skeleton. (Stock Exchange), Wickens, Pease & Co.'s shares.

So now we shall soon have our "crackers,"
And likely enough our "cheroots,"
While our *bones* can be sent to the "knackers,"
And then we have sweet "Sarah's boots."
—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

(Common), to rattle the *bones*, to play at dice.

Bone setter (old), a hard or fast trotting horse.

Bone shaker (common), a name given to the old-fashioned bicycle, which was a clumsy wood machine, and was superseded by the spider steel machine, which is now being superseded in its turn by the smaller "Safety."

Bone shave, the sciatica or rheumatic gout in the sciatic nerve. According to Mr. Thomas Wright in his Archaic Dictionary, the peasantry of Exmore had a charm for the supposed cure or relief of this malady, consisting in the repetition of the following doggerel lines as the patient lay on his back on the brink of a brook or river, with a staff by his side between him and the water.

Bone shave right,
Bone shave straight.
As the water runs by the stone
Good for *bone shave.*

Bone standing (American cadet), to *bone standing*, to study hard for a class position (O. E. Wood: United States Army).

Bong (Australian blackfellows' lingo), dead. This word is a specimen of the pidgin-English, stuffed with native words, in which intercourse is carried on with the blacks on stations.

"Yohi," said the boy, still sitting on his horse, "altogether *bong*" (dead), "one fellow bail *bong*" (one not dead). "Which one bail *bong?*" demanded John in terror. "Missis bail *bong* ony, cawbawn frighten" (Missis not dead, only dreadfully frightened). —*A. C. Grant: Bush Life in Queensland.*

Bonger, bānger (gypsy), to bend, bow, duck, dodge, to twist or turn; *bongo*, bent, turned, unwilling, sinister, crooked, evil, distorted, awry. "O *bongo* yākk"—"The evil eye." "O *bongo* wast"—"The left hand." "A *bongo* zī" (or see)—"A crooked, evil heart." "O *bongo* rikk o' the drom"—"The left-hand side of the road."

Boning (American çadets), *boning* the adjutant, a violent or immoderate assumption of a military air or bearing; a swaggering military fillibuster; a Bombastes Furioso. *Boning* demerit, said of a cadet who avoids giving cause for being reported to the authorities (O. E. Wood: United States Army).

Bonnet (thieves), a pretext or pretence. Vaux defines it thus: —"A concealment, a pretext, a pretence, an ostensible manner

of accounting for what you really wish to conceal; as a man who lives by depredation, will still outwardly follow some honest employment, as a clerk, porter, newsman." One who metaphorically *bonnets* or *blinds* other people; a *bonnet* or *bonneter* is also a sham bidder at auctions; a confederate in thimblerig or three cards; one who pretends to buy of a crocus pitcher or street medicine vendor so as to entice purchasers. In French, *bonneteur* is one who is profuse of compliments and bows; hence a swindler who tries to wheedle people out of their money; also a three-card trick sharper. To *bonnet* for a person, is to corroborate any assertion he has made, or to relate facts in the most favourable light, in order to extricate him from a dilemma, or to further any object he has in view.

(Common), to smash a man's hat over his face, a favourite amusement of London roughs.

Two young men who . . . varied their amusements by *bonneting* the proprietor of this itinerant coffee-house.—*Dickens: Sketches.*

Bonneter (thieves), a crushing blow on the hat.

Bonnets so blue (rhyming slang), Irish stew.

Bono, good. (East), *bono* Johnny, an Englishman.

Booby-hutch (thieves), the police-station.

Booby-trap (Winchester), the door of a room is left open, and on the top are placed some big books and a wet sponge, so that when it is pushed the whole falls on the head of whoever opens it. This time-honoured species of practical joking is not confined to Winchester.

Books were closed, *booby-traps* scattered, sofa-pillows restored to their legitimate places.—*Chambers's Journal.*

Boodgeree (Australian bush slang), a blackfellow's word for "good," incorporated into the slang of the white. Used principally in the pidgin-English, in which the whites carry on their conversation with the blacks. A very common word.

What was his fate then might be mine in a few minutes. I determined to keep still and wait for what might turn up. Presently I heard bushes rustling some distance behind, and the voice of a blackfellow, uttering in that strange tone in which the wild savage first pronounces English words—*boodgeree* (white fellow, good, good white fellow).—*A. C. Grant. Bush Life in Queensland.*

Boodle (American), booty, profit, perquisites, plunder. Commonly used with regard to government transactions, contracts, &c., by which the public are cheated.

'Twas Yankee doodle once I swore,
But it is Yankee *boodle* now.
—*American Paper.*

This word in the United States is applied among thieves only to counterfeit or bad money. The *boodle* carrier is the man who carries the counterfeit or "queer," while the shover passes

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

it off. "At the first sign of trouble the *boodle* carrier vanishes, leaving nothing to criminate his com-rogue" (New York Slang Dictionary).

(American political), *boodle* explained by quotation.

In the States the money used for electioneering purposes is known as *boodle*, "sinews of war," and "living issues."—*Cornhill Magazine.*

Boodle has also the signification of property, wealth; unquestionably from the Dutch *boedel*, household stuff. Also an estate left by persons deceased. (Popular), a stupid noodle (Murray).

Book (literary), the libretto of an opera.

This piece will be followed by a new comic opera called "Compère Guillery," by H. Perry, the *book* being by Messrs. Julian Perry and Paul Burani.—*Sporting Times.*

(Turf), an arrangement of bets against certain horses marked in a pocket-book made for that purpose. "Making a *book* upon it," is a common phrase that a man is prepared to lay the odds against the horses in a race. "That does not suit my *book*," *i.e.*, does not accord with my other arrangements (Hotten).

Booked (common), disposed of, caught.

Book-form (turf), the relative powers of speed or endurance of race-horses as gauged by the "book," *i.e.*, the published record in the calendar of races past.

Bookies (turf), the bookmakers.

The *bookies* came down like wolves on the fold
To try and secure all the "Jubilee" gold.
Some plumped for St. Mirin, but wrongly had reckoned,
For Annamite won, and the "Saint" was but second. —*Turf.*

Past Epsom's Spring, again we try
Our luck with *bookies* and with horses
On yet another field, where lie
The mysteries of the Guineas' courses.
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

The toughest *bookie*, as well as the airiest turfite, will be sorry to hear of the death of a genial fellow.—*The World.*

Books (Winchester). There are prizes given at the end of each half by Lord Saye and Sele to the two seniors in each division. These are called the *books*. To get *books* is to obtain one of these prizes. When a part or division are saying a lesson, the pupils sit at one end of "school," in three rows; they are then said to be "up to *books*." The Don sits in his chair with his side towards them, and the "man" who is saying the lesson stands in front of him.

Books (card players), a pack of cards.

Boom (American), properly the distant sound as of thunder gradually increasing in intensity. This word, from being a favourite one in American oratory, began to be applied in 1880 to any great advance or rise in business or politics. A great *boom* in cotton refers to an advance in price and greater activity in the market, while

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the first rumour that a certain man will obtain a nomination to office may be announced in a newspaper in large letters at the head of a column as, "A *boom* for Smith!"

A BOOM FOR HILL.—A movement is on foot in Washington to organise a David B. Hill *boom* for the Presidency.—*Chicago Tribune.*

In the present case many influences seem to work in the direction of a *boom*.—*Truth.*

Some Prospero waved his magic wand, the world made discovery that it was positively languishing for want of more copper and tin, all visible supplies were eagerly bought up, and the great mining *boom* of 1887 was fairly started.—*Globe.*

(Journalistic), a *boom* refers to the publication in a newspaper of some correspondence which will raise up a polemic, and, by thus attracting the attention of the public, increase the sale of the paper.

The latest *Daily Telegraph boom*—"Our Daughters"—is going on merrily, and the views of the various young ladies are distinctly interesting to note.—*Globe.*

(Nautical), to "top one's *boom* off," to be off or start in a certain direction.

Boomah (Australian), a very large kind of kangaroo. This word is probably a mistake of Colonel Munday's. He heard the kangaroo called a boomer because of its enormous size: the word was strange to him, and he imagined it to be a variety of kangaroo, and not a slang word expressive of size.

An officer from Van Diemen's Land told me that he had once killed in that colony "a kangaroo of such magnitude, that being a long way from home, he was unable though on horseback to carry away any portion except the tail, which alone weighed thirty pounds. This species is called the *boomah*, and stands about seven feet high."—*Lieut.-Col. Munday: Our Antipodes.*

Boomer (American), a very big specimen, a huge snake or kangaroo.

And should you ask how such a one
A mighty hunter grew,
So many flying does outsped,
So many *boomers* slew.

. . . . . .

But suddenly the vision passed,
And Bill became aware,
That he was in the *boomer's* arms,
And bounding through the air.
—*J. B. Stephens: Marsupial Bill.*

A very great lie, a very big flea; a very long hit at cricket would be described as a *boomer*, or a regular *boomer* (used by "slangy" Australians). A *boomer* is probably that which makes a big boom or noise, and so something very big. We have the same metaphor in "a great gun."

Boomerang (American), properly a carved flat weapon used by the natives in Australia, which, when thrown, returns to the thrower. In American journalism the word is frequently used to indicate some evil measure, or act, or falsehood, which, like a curse, has "come home to roost," or recoiled on the head of its author. The title, "A Bourbon *Boomerang*," in an American newspaper, means that the Democrats have been in-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

jured by some scheme they had formed against the Republicans.

Boomeranging (Australian), hitting or killing with a boomerang. A slang participle, coined from the native word boomerang.

War shouts and universal *boomeranging*.
—*J. B. Stephens: A Picaninny.*

Booming (Australian), large, astonishing. For derivation *vide* BOOMER.

Look at that *booming* guana! He has been feeding sumptuously on the carrion. He is watching us with his "glittering eye," his head up, his vicious tongue darting out now and then like a serpent's fangs.—*A. C. Grant.*

Boom-ja-lang (American), a mysterious slang word, which seems to mean the same as the Spanish *funcion*, business, or what is going on.

'Twas right in the middle of the *boom-ja-lang*,
All on a summer day.
Rip Sam! set her up again;
Set her up again! set her up again.
We're all of the Choctaw tribe.
—*Song*, 1860.

Boom-passenger (nautical), a convict on board ship. Derived from the circumstance that prisoners on board convict ships were chained to, or were made to crawl along, or stand on the booms for exercise or punishment (Hotten).

Boonder, bounder (American), a scrubbing-brush. (New York), Dutch, *boender*, a brush. "A rubber, a rubbing-brush. *Boenen* to rub with a brush," implying diligence. Hence the Americanism to *bone it*, to *bone into it*, to apply one's self, to scrub away hard.

Boost, to (American), to push up. Generally used in the sense of giving one a lift; "give me a *boost*," as one boy when climbing a tree says to another.

The bull was actually tearing up the earth and *boosting* up the sand like a whirlwind.—*Mark Twain: Roughing It.*

Booth (thieves), a house; to "heave a *booth*," to rob a house.

Booth-burster, barn-stormer (theatrical), a loud actor, of the good old-fashioned "horse-dung and sawdust" type. The late T. B. Chatterton used to term it "gut acting."

Booting (military), punishment inflicted by the men with a surcingle or strap.

Boot joe (military), musketry drill.

Boot-leg plan (American), by evasion or trickery, in reference to the saying that "the *boot* is on the other leg," *i.e.*, not as one would naturally understand an assertion.

There is as much whisky consumed in Iowa now as there was before, but less beer, throughout the State "for medical purposes only," and on the *boot-leg plan*, and saloons run openly in the larger towns in defiance of the laws.—*Omaha Herald.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Boots (common), man or boy who cleans boots at an hotel. The term has ceased to be slang.

Well, I must do my best, the post of *boots*
My office, which I used to think sublime,
This sort of thing scarcely suits.
—*Punch.*

A "bootcatcher" was a provincialism applied to a man at an inn whose duty it was to pull off the boots of travellers.

To "buy any one's old *boots*," to marry or keep a cast-off mistress.

Booze (common), drink; to *booze*, to drink heavily. To be "on the *booze*," to be out on a drunken jollification, going from one public-house to another. The word is derivable from "bouse," to drink deep or carouse. In Wright's Archaic Dictionary "boose" is defined as meaning, in some of the rural districts, a cattle "trough," where kine and horses drink. In Warwickshire and Leicestershire the trough is called a "booson." Some etymologists derive this from the Hindostani *booza*, drink, and others from the Dutch *buyzen*, to tipple—with more reason, as the term was good English in the fourteenth century.

Thomas Harman, in his "Caveat, or Warening for Common Cursetors," 1568, has *bouse* for drink, and *to bouse* for to drink,

"I say by the Salomon I will lage it of with a gage of bene *bouse*; then cut to my nose watch. Why, hast thou any lowre in thy bonge to *bouse*?"—"I say by the mass I will wipe it off with a quart of good drink, say what you will to me. Why, hast thou any money in thy purse to drink?"

To be *boozed*, to be drunk.

Boozer, or **booser** (popular), one fond of potations, a drunkard.

This landlord was a *boozer* stout,
A snuff-taker and smoker.
—*Wolcot: Peter Pindar.*

Boozing cheat (thieves), a bottle.

Boozing ken (popular), a public-house.

Boozington (Australian prison slang), a drunken man. In England, Lushington (one who lushes or drinks) is the equivalent term.

Boozy (popular), partially intoxicated; what the vulgar colloquialism calls the "worse for liquor," or "disguised in liquor." Formerly not slang.

Borak (colonial), to "poke *borak*," applied in colonial conversation to the operations of a person who pours fictitious information into the ears of a credulous listener (*Notes and Queries*, 7th Series, vol. iii. p. 476).

Bordeaux (pugilistic), blood, termed also "claret, Badminton."

Borde (old cant), a shilling. Probably originated in the term "bord," formerly a duty paid in fairs and markets for setting up tables, boards, and stalls.

Bord you (nautical), a phrase used to claim the next turn after one

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

who is drinking. Used also in Norfolk by harvesters.

Bore, to (pugilistic), to drive an opponent on to the ropes of the ring by sheer weight.

Mollineaux tried to *bore* down his opponent by main strength; Cribb determined to prevent him if possible by repeating some desperate blows on the head. —*Thomas Cribb: Pugilistica.*

(Athletics), to push an opponent out of his course.

Boring (turf), when a horse in running hangs upon another so as to interfere with his chance of winning, the process, whether intentional on the part of the jockey or the result of the exhaustion or bad temper of the animal, is called *boring*. It usually leads to recrimination, and occasionally to disqualification.

Born weak (nautical), when a vessel is feebly built, she is said to have been *born weak*.

Bosh (colloquial), nonsense.

This gentleman whispered to his comrade the —— (I believe of Eastern derivation) the monosyllable *bosh!—Thackeray: The Adventures of Philip.*

"This well-known word is alleged," say the authors of the Anglo-Indian Glossary, "to be taken from the Turkish *bosh*, signifying empty, vain, useless, &c. (Redhouse's Dictionary); but we have not been able to trace its history or first appearance in English." *Bosh* in English, and all other gypsy dialects, means a noise or sound of any kind, and is also used in all the senses of the Turkish word to denote emptiness, just as we might say "that is all talk." "Hatch your bosh," or "bosherin," stop your noise, is quite the same as stop your *bosh*. And as the English gypsy *bosh*, in fact, comes rather nearer to the English slang word than the Turkish, it seems most likely that the Romany supplied it. *Bosh* or *bāsh* in gypsy has also the meaning of music, and is applied to a violin. It was, and may yet be, a test of a "traveller's" proficiency in gypsy habits, or in the Romany language, to put to him the following verse:

"O can you rokker Romanis?
O can you kill the *bosh*?
O can you jā to staruben?
O can you chin the kosh?"—

i.e. "O can you talk Romany?
O can you play the fiddle?
O can you go to prison?
O can you cut the wood?"

The last line refers to making skewers or other articles of wood —the last resort for a gypsy when poor.

Bosh faker (itinerants), violinist. *Bosh* is gypsy for a violin. A great many expressions used by the lowest class of actors are from the gypsy. Also *boshman*.

Bosh lines (showmen), literally violin strings, explained by quotation.

Both of these men have Marionette frames, and are Marionette performers in

addition; and invariably charge more for their engagement when working the Marionettes, or "*bosh* lines," as they call them, as well.—*Tit Bits.*

Bos-ken (tramps), a farm-house.

Bosky (popular), drunk; from *bosky*, swelled, in fact, "tight."

Reminding Corinthian Tom and Jerry Hawthorn of the Oxonian and his inclination to get *bosky*.—*Punch.*

Bosman (tramps), a farmer. Dutch.

I've seen the swell *bosmen* buy the pills to give the people standing about, just to hear the crocus patter.—*Henry Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

Boss, an American and colonial term extensively used in England by all classes in a variety of meanings, such as master, head.

Boss horse-shoers now charge fifty cents extra for shoeing, to meet the demands of the journeymen.—*The Weekly Bulletin, San Francisco.*

You want a *boss* cook and a beauty, don Cabeza, eh! Well I guess I am both. What'll you give me to come to the mine and cook?—*F. Francis: Saddle and Mocassin.*

The station-*boss* stopped dead still and glared at me speechless.—*Mark Twain: Roughing It.*

Much philological research has been devoted to establish the complete etymology of this word, it being held that it is connected with *boss*, a round, salient protuberance which rises, so to speak, in a superior manner above the surrounding surface; but most philologists agree in deriving it from the Dutch *baas*, master; *den baas speelen*, to play the master, to domineer, to lord it, the pronunciation of *baass* and *boss* being the same. And this origin is borne out by the circumstance that the French argot has *beausse* for the master of a house, rich citizen, man of importance, which was borrowed from Flemish vagabonds and thieves. In Norfolk *boss* is used in the sense of master, or one who can beat and overcome another. In the North of England "bossock" and "bossy" mean large, fat, with a large belly. The last word bears a close resemblance to the French *bossu*; but of course a "bossy" man and a *bossu* differ in respect of the position of the protuberance.

In America *boss* is also used as an adjective with the sense of principal, large, fine, as a *boss* lot of apples.

Many a time have I let the "*boss* mine,' or the "*boss* ranch" slip through my fingers!—*F. Francis: Saddle and Mocassin.*

Boss is often used as a verb, with the signification to own, manage, superintend, conduct.

Our gallant chief, *bossing* the situation as usual, insisted upon the National Anthem being played at the conclusion of the sport, and subsequently called for three cheers for the Queen.—*Sporting Times.*

"Old Blivins, who *bossed* the local sheet,
And the lawyer who worked for beer as a fee;
In a maudlin state wandered down the street,
Having had a dejected kind of spree."
—*Keighley Goodchild: Waif.*

In short, with no other counteracting force than an old lady and a youth of eighteen, it is easy to see that a "free-

booter" like the Captain *bossed* the show, just as he had done at the Pantheon.—*Sporting Times.*

He was *bossing* the cooking himself that evening, and at that moment was engaged in stirring some beans that he was frying in the Mexican style, bacon-fat being substituted for lard.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Mocassin.*

"*Bossed* his own shoes," managed his affairs personally.

At any rate, the elder Hegner has hitherto *bossed his own shoes*, &c.—*Truth.*

The Australian employé generally speaks of his master as the *boss*, though he seldom would address him as *boss* except when the master is really in the same station of life as himself. It is disrespectful to address a man as *boss* in Australia. The "Larrikin" is rather fond of prefacing his impertinences to passers by with, "I say, *Boss*."

I remember a certain South Australian aide-de-camp, who was a tremendous "masher," coming over to Melbourne for "the Cup." He was wearing one of those stiff-starched four-inch collars, irreverently styled "jampots," and was saluted in Bourke Street on the "Cup night" with "I say, *Boss*, how much for the celluloid?" from an individual who was not to be crushed by a withering glance through a deliberately screwed-in eyeglass.
—*D. B. W. Sladen.*

"The Darky *Boss:* the 'trashy white,'
a 'brudder,'
Man at the prow and woman at the rudder."
—*J. B. Stephens: Macaulay's New Zealander.*

Cabmen use the term with the sense of the "fare," in Paris *le bourgeois* (which has also all the other meanings of *boss*).

Who is a gentleman? On returning from the Lichfield Coursing Meeting the other evening, one of the runners with the telegraph messages from the ground to the Lichfield telegraph office was given a ride home, and when nearing Lichfield it was discovered that some one was seated in front by the side of the coachman. The *boss* wanting to know who it was, asked the boy what gentleman that was riding by the side of the driver, and the reply was as follows, "He's no gentleman, sir, he's only a policeman."—*Bird o' Freedom.*

"*Boss* of the shanty," master, manager of the place.

The young man who lives not far from Burdett Road, who sports a P. and O. cap, and wore a C. medal at the Poplar early closing concert, should have strutted about so. Was he looking for the fair young lady, or did he fancy himself "*boss* of the shanty?"—*Toby.*

Boss of the show, manager of a theatre, music-hall, circus, or a man who gives an entertainment.

Miss Leonora Bradley, well known in America, will open shortly in London, at a West End theatre, with a new play called "Jess," written by the authors of "My Sweetheart." Eugène C. Stafford will be *boss* of this show, of which report speaks highly.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Popular), to *boss* anything, to make a mess of it, to spoil it.

Bossaroo, used by J. B. Stephens, the Australian comic poet, as an abbreviation of "Boss Kangaroo.

Ringed by the fathers of the tribe,
Surrounded, yet alone,
The *Bossaroo* superbly posed
Upon a granite throne,
A very old "old man," who had
Four generations known.
—*J. B. Stephens: Marsupial Bill*

Bossers (common), spectacles; because (specially in the case of short-sighted persons) they make one look "boss-eyed" or squinting, or from the studs on horses' blinkers.

Boston (American), an expression which owes much of its meaning to the tone and accent with which it is uttered. Sometimes it is *Bosting*, the nasal Yankee form of the word. It is meant to satirise provincial vanity, and the peculiar form of priggishness which is declared by envious New Yorkers and others to be characteristic of "the hub of the universe." The city of Boston unquestionably is, as regards literary culture, far in advance of any city in America, a fact of which its indwellers are by no means ignorant.

Boston culchaw (American). It is declared by the dwellers in the other (doubtless envious) cities of America that the inhabitants of Boston are so proud of their "culture," that however excited or unruly they may become, any person can at once call them to order by referring to it. In a letter from the Hub to the *Chicago Tribune* there is a detailed and apparently perfectly truthful narrative of two "ladies," or at least "women of wealth," who began to quarrel furiously in a shop over a counter for a shilling handkerchief. The bystanders, and finally all the people in the place, were soon in a furious row, when a tall, dignified man, observing that there was a stranger present, restored quiet as by a miracle. All that he did was to utter in an absent-minded way, "*Boston culchaw*—ahem!" There was a sudden silence—a marked sensation, as if an electric current had in a second struck every heart—and the ladies, forgetting the handkerchief, at once retreated. It is said that the police experience no difficulty in stopping dog-fights, "plug-masses," or rows in the lowest taverns; they have but to cry, "Is *this* æsthetic? Is *this* becoming *Boston?*" Happy the city whose detractors can find in it no worse subject of ridicule than its devotion to culture.

Botany Bay (Oxford), a name for Worcester College, Oxford, given in reference to the situation of the building, which is at some distance from the centre of the town.

(Prison slang), penal servitude generally, but going out of use, as transportation, which began in 1787, ceased in 1867. *Botany Bay* (now known as New South Wales) first received convicts in 1787.

Botch (old), a nickname for a tailor. From to *botch*, to patch up clumsily.

Bottle (sporting), it turned out no *bottle*, did not turn out well,

failed. (Popular), *bottle*-headed, stupid.

Bottle-arsed (printers), type that is thickened at the bottom or feet is thus described. This circumstance arises from the fact of it being worn by continual impression, and sometimes hastened by improper "planing" down or levelling, preparatory to laying the form on for printing.

Bottle-holder (pugilistic), one of the seconds attending a prize fight in the ring, who takes charge of the water bottle and holds the combatant on his knees between the rounds, whilst the other sponges and otherwise attends to him.

Lord Palmerston was so nicknamed after a speech he made when Foreign Secretary.

The noble Lord told the deputation that the past crisis was one which required on the part of the British Government much generalship and judgment, and that a good deal of judicious *bottle-holding* was obliged to be brought into play. The phrase *bottle-holding*, borrowed from the prize-ring, offended a good many persons.—*Justin M'Carthy: A History of Our Own Times.*

Bottle of spruce (rhyming slang), a deuce, slang for twopence.

Bottling (theatrical), the same as applies to hobbing.

Bottom (common), spirit placed in a glass before water is poured in.

(Up country Australian), the scrubby, swampy ground in the *bottom* of a depression or valley. Mostly used in compounds such as ti-tree (tea-tree) *bottom*.

It led
Into a forest track which oft
Was blocked by tea-tree *bottom* soft
Or fallen trunk, compelling them
To make detours, and thrice a stem
Some inches through must needs be topped
On pain of being wholly stopped.
—*D. B. W. Sladen: A Summer Christmas.*

Bottom-growths is good English for grass growing on low lands.

(American), "soda and dark *bottom*," soda and brown brandy.

Bottom dollar (American), last dollar.

We'll go our *bottom* dollar.—*Sporting Times.*

Botts (popular), the colic. Properly small worms in the rectum of a horse.

Botty (popular), conceited. (Nursery), a contraction for an infant's posterior. The French equivalent is *tutu*.

Boughs, up in the (old), in a passion.

Bounce (common), cherry-brandy. (Popular and thieves), a bully or swell; a "rank *bounce*," a great swell. To *bounce*, to swindle, to cheat by false representations.

You will get no cheque or anything else out of us, so you had better travel down to Dover under the seat; and if you can't *bounce* the "Johnnies" on the boat, you'll have to swim from Dover to Calais.—*Sporting Times.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(American), *bounced*, dismissed, turned out; "given the G. B.," *i.e.*, grand *bounce*, to be turned out with great indignity.

Bouncer (popular), a swindler, a person who steals whilst bargaining with a tradesman, a large, stout man or woman.

(Prison), a male companion of a prostitute, who lives on her gains, and who, by intimidation and threats, extorts money from men whom she entices.

(Naval), a gun that kicks violently when fired.

Bouncing cheat (old cant), a bottle, probably from the noise made when opening it and drawing the cork, or a corruption of *boozing-cheat*.

Bounder (university), a student whose manners are despised by the *soi-disant élite*, or who is beyond the boundary of good fellowship; also a dog-cart.

(Society), a swell, a stylish fellow, but of a very vulgar type.

I said something one day about my own attire, and she remarked that if I ordered the particular hat I desired I should be taken for a *bounder;* and when I asked what that meant, she said, "Oh, a toff, you know." Feeling that my ignorance had better be displayed no further, I departed by the next train.—*St. James's Gazette: Culture of the Misses.*

A *bounder* comes above the sunset hill,
Who'll come and make his stay;
For he's the snipe with writs who is possest,
No human force can chase that dun away.
He is the boss! and in possession still.
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Also a four-wheeled cab, otherwise known as a "growler."

Bound to be had (popular), destined to be outwitted or cheated.

Sold again! What a shame! it is really too bad,
The way that I'm treated is certainly sad,
'Tis my phiz that they quiz like my mother and dad,
So wherever I go I am *bound to be had.*
—*F. Caughan: Ballad.*

Bounge, bonge, or bung (old cant), a purse, and also for a pickpocket. A corruption of the English *bouget*, wallet.

Boung nipper (old), a pickpocket, or, as they were then called, "cut-purses."

Bounty jumper (American), a soldier who deserts to enlist into another regiment for the sake of the bounty.

Manager of Caledonian Sports—"In what line are you a contestant?" *Applicant*—"I am a jumper." "Ah, you have made a record?" "I made a pretty fair one during the war, I jumped the *bounty* five or six times."—*Philadelphia Call.*

Bourbon democrats (American), according to their Republican opponents, the Democrats, especially those of the South, are like the Bourbons, because they have "forgotten nothing, and learned nothing," since the war.

Bouse, or booze out (naval), a good *bouse out* is a good feed, a "tightener."

Bousing-ken (old cant), tavern, ale-house, modernised into "boozing-ken."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"And byng to rome vyle, to nyp a bonge; so shall we haue lowre for the *bousing-ken.*"—*Harman: A Caveat.*

i.e., "And let us away to London, to cut a purse; so we shall have money for the ale-house."

Forting thinks the term is a gypsy corruption of the Hindostani *booza*, drink, and *khana*, house. *Bousin*, or *bousingot*, in the slang of French sailors, is a drinking place or "lush-crib," from the Dutch *buyzen*, to tipple.

Bovine heart (medical), not the heart of an ox, but a human heart, which, owing to disease of one set of valves, has become so much enlarged as to equal in size that of an ox.

Bow-catcher (popular), a corruption of beau-catcher, a small curl which formerly was worn twisted on the temples. French "accroche-cœurs" (*rouflaquettes* in the case of prostitutes' bullies), and American "spit-curls."

Bowery boy (American, specially New York), for many years the rough or rowdy of New York was called the *Bowery boy*, from a street, the Bowery (Dutch *Bouwerie*), which he was supposed to peculiarly affect.

When I first knew it both the old Bowery Theatre and the old *Bowery boy* were in their glory. It was about that time that Thackeray, taking some notes in Gotham, had an encounter with the *Bowery boy* that seems to have slipped into history. The caustic satirist had heard of the *Bowery boy*, as the story goes, and went to see him on his native heath. He found him leaning on a fire hydrant, and accosted him with, "My friend, I want to go to Broadway." Whereupon the *Bowery boy*, drawing up his shoulders and taking another chew on his cigar, "Well, why the —— don't yer go, then?"—*Chicago Tribune.*

In New York other species of roughs were termed "dead rabbits," "five pointers," and "Water-Street rats;" the roughs of Baltimore were known as "blood tubs" and "plug uglies," in Philadelphia as "shifflers" and "moyamensings," and in New Orleans as "tigers" (New York Slang Dictionary).

Bowled (Winchester), synonymous with "croppled," or "cropped," that is, turned in for a lesson at "standing up," when at the end of cloister time all below senior part have to repeat eight lessons, that is, from 150 to 400 lines.

Bowled out (thieves), convicted; a metaphor taken from cricket, where the batsman's innings is concluded for good when he is *bowled out.*

A man who has followed the profession of thieving for some time, when he is ultimately taken, tried, and convicted, is said to be *bowled out* at last; to *bowl out* a person in a general sense, means to detect him in the commission of any fraud or peculation, which he has hitherto practised without discovery.—*Vaux's Memoirs.*

Bowles (popular), shoes.

Bowl out, to (general), to put out of a game, to detect.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Bowl the hoop (rhyming slang), soup.

Bowly, bowry (Anglo-Indian), a well. These in India are often grand and beautiful structures, the water being reached by broad flights of stairs, with resting-places here and there.

To persons not familiar with the East, such an architectural object as a *bow-lee* may seem a strange perversion of ingenuity; but the grateful coolness of all subterranean apartments, especially when accompanied by water, and the quiet gloom of these recesses, fully compensate in the eyes of the Hindu for the more attractive magnificence of the *ghâts*. Consequently the descending flights of which we are now speaking, have often been more elaborate and expensive pieces of architecture than any of the buildings above ground found in their vicinity.—*Fergusson: Indian and Eastern Architecture, Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Bows (nautical), wide in the *bows*, having large hips and posteriors. To have a large "barge," same meaning.

Bowse, or **bouse up the jib** (nautical), an old phrase, meaning to tipple. "Bowsing his tib or jib" is said of a man who has been drinking freely.

Bowsprit (old), the nose. The analogy is evident between the most prominent part of the face and the *bowsprit* of a vessel. More modern are the "boko," "conk," and "smeller."

Bow-wow (old), a contemptuous term for a man born in Boston, Mass. It is possible that this meaning was in the first place derived from *bow-wow*, a servile personal attendant.

Box (common), to be in the wrong *box*, to be mistaken. The expression is old, and has passed into the language.

"Sir," quoth I, "if you will hear how St. Augustine expounded to that place, you shall perceive that you are in a *wrong box*."—*Ridley*, 1554.

(Thieves), cell.

In a *box* of the stone jug I was born,
Of a hempen widow the kid forlorn,
Fake away!
—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

To box (Australian station slang), to join, or mix.

It now was time to mark the lambs,
And make young ewes distinct from rams.
. . . . . .
While he the overseer would come
With full hands from the station home,
From which they'd start at break of day,
And do the marking in a day;
And still he cautioned each to heed,
And look out as he did proceed.
"Now, mind yourselves, for if you *box*,
You'll play the mischief with the flocks."
—*Dugald Ferguson, N.Z.: The Lambs, in "Castle Joy and other Poems."*

Boxed in (thieves), explained by quotation.

When there were three in a job there would always be one outside to look out, not only for any person coming along, but for lights in the windows, showing that somebody had been disturbed, in which case it was easy for him to whistle a warning to his pals to clear out. But the single-handed man lacked these various advantages. It was neck or nothing with him when he was once *boxed in* (when he entered a house), and a revolver was his best safeguard.—*J. Greenwood: A Converted Burglar.*

Box Harry, to (commercial travellers), to go without dinner

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

for want of the money to procure it, or having dinner and tea at one meal to save expense. Formerly, it is said, truants confined at school, without fire, fought or boxed a figure nicknamed *Harry* (probably the devil), which hung in their room, to keep themselves warm. That may be the origin of the phrase. In Lincolnshire, *to box Harry* is to be careful after being extravagant. To *box* the devil on account of one's poverty strongly reminds one of the French "tirer le diable par la queue," to be "hard up."

Box hat (common), a silk hat, termed also a "chimney-pot."

Box of dominoes (popular), the mouth.

Box the Jesuit, to (old), a term to express a secret vice.

Box-wallah (Anglo-Indian), a hybrid Hindu word, from *bakas*, or the English box, and *wala*, a pronominal termination. A *box-wallah* is a small pedlar, who sells cheap wares, and who corresponds closely to many of his cousins, the pedling gypsies of England.

Boy (society), champagne, probably derived from the term "lively *boy*," which is often applied to a young man brimming over with animal spirits.

To be let, cheap, in the Royal Exchange, a small, well-fitted office, with use of *boy*. Suitable for stockbroker or solicitor.—X., care of Leathwait & Simmons, advertising agents, 1 Pope's Head Alley, E.C. X. can send us particulars at once. Pommery '74, extra sec., is our favourite kind of *boy*, but there aren't many brands that we aren't equal to tackling at this establishment.—*Sporting Times.*

(Popular), a hump on a man's back. A hunch, or hump back man is sometimes spoken of as if he were two persons—"him and his *boy*."

(Anglo-Indian and pidgin), throughout the East personal servants of any age are called *boys*. The authors of the Anglo-Indian Glossary observe that similar uses of the word are to be found in the Vulgate, also in the Arabic, and German literature, while Shakspeare makes Fluelen say—

"Kill the *poys* and the luggage! 'tis expressly against the laws of arms!"

In pidgin-English a servant is *boy*, whilst *boy* in the ordinary sense is "one small *boy*." In Tonkin the word is used by the French with a like signification.

Boycott, to (general), a now generally accepted term, used with the signification of to send to Coventry, to stand aloof. The French equivalent is "mettre en quarantaine."

"Why, Mabel, dear, I have not seen you for the last ten days: surely you don't mean to *boycott* Regent Street?"

"I don't want to *boycott* Regent Street, but they may want to Endacott me."—*Sporting Times.*

From Captain Boycott, an Irish landlord, who lay under a kind of excommunication, all

labourers being forbidden to work for him under penalty of some fearful punishment. .

Boys (turf), the crowd of "rampers," "brief snatchers," "welshers," "magsmen," "lumberers," and other rogues who flourish on every racecourse.

I should think that there is hardly a bookmaker in Tattersall's, or even one of the ready-money fraternity, who would not willingly subscribe to a fund for the laudable purpose of cleansing the rings from those foul abominations, those criminal scoundrels known as the *boys*. These vermin rob the public annually of thousands of pounds, and divert from the pockets of the bookmakers a perfect river of gold.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

The *boys* is also a designation occasionally applied to the ring. "He is not on terms with the *boys*," means that the person alluded to has lost more money than he can pay, and does not venture within hail of the bookmakers.

Brace, to (American thieves), to get credit by swagger. To *brace* it through, to do a thing by sheer impudence.

Bracelets (police), handcuffs. Its equivalent is used in French slang.

"You'd better slip the *bracelets* on him, Jim." The fellow on my left produced a pair of handcuffs.—*Miss Braddon: Robert Ainsleigh.*

"Ah, but I do!" exclaimed the detective, suddenly seizing the trembling wretch. "Come, let's slip the *bracelets* on."—*G. Sims: Rogues and Vagabonds.*

Brace of shakes, in a (popular), in a moment.

Brace up, to (thieves), to pawn stolen goods. Hotten so defines it, but Vaux says: "To dispose of stolen goods by pledging them for the utmost you can get at a pawnbroker's is termed 'bracing them up.'"

Bracket-faced (old), of unpleasing features, hard-visaged or ugly.

Bracket-mug (popular), a very ugly face, *mug* being slang for face.

Brads (thieves), halfpence, money. Hotten says, *brads*, money; Vaux, "*Brads* are halfpence, also money in general." Properly *brads* are a kind of nails used by cobblers.

"Get anything?"

"Get anything? Not a *brad*, s'welp my never. The old bloke vhas a sittin' up a sharpenin' his scissors."

"But you must a' got something?"

"Vhell, yes—I vhas lucky to get out without bein' made a sheeny myself."—*Sporting Times.*

Brag (thieves), a money-lender at exorbitant interest, a Jew.

Brain-pan (medical), the skull-cap, the calvaria, also the skull itself. (Common), the head, called also "nob, nut, knowledge-box, canister, chump."

Bramble, a Kentish term for a lawyer.

Bramble-gelder. In Suffolk a derisive appellation for an agriculturist (Hotten).

Bran (popular), bread. French soldiery call it *boule de son.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

He purchased . . . a half-quartern loaf, or, as he himself expressed it, a four-penny *bran.—Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Branded ticket (nautical), a discharge given to an infamous man, on which his character is given, and the reason he is turned out of the service (Admiral Smyth).

Brandy coatee, brandy (Anglo-Indian), a cloak, a coat for the rain.

Barani-kurti seems to be a kind of hybrid shaped by the English word "coat," though *kurti* and *kurta* are true Persian words for various forms of jacket and tunic.—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Brandy-faced (popular), red faced. Is generally said of one who is in the habit of drinking spirits in excess.

Brandy pawnee (Anglo-Indian and English gypsy), brandy and water. From *pānī*, Hindu and Romany, for water. In England "parny" is a common slang word for water.

I'm sorry to see you, gentlemen, drinking *brandy pawnee*. It plays the deuce with our young men in India.—*Thackeray: The Newcomes.*

Bran-mash (army), bread broken up and soaked in coffee or tea at breakfast, or the evening meal, which consists of dry bread only, as the regular ration, men in funds adding red herrings, eggs, and other savoury condiments according to choice. See FLOATING BATTERIES.

Brass (colloquial), impudence, "cheek," from the immovable hard-set countenance of a bold, impudent person, the *front d'airain* of the French expression abbreviated into *avoir le front de . . .*, to have the audacity.

She in her defence made him appear such a rogue upon record, that the Chief Justice wondered he had the *brass* to appear in a Court of Justice.—*North: Examen.*

It is said of an impudent person that his face has been "rubbed with a *brass* candlestick," or that he is as "bold as *brass*."

"He died damned hard, and as bold as *brass*," an expression commonly used among the vulgar after returning from an execution.—*George Parker: Dictionary of Cant.*

(Popular), money generally.

But my *brass* all went to
Old Nick, and the rent too,
For I backed Sorrento—
No Sunday dinner.
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

"It's no good being proper in this world," said the first housemaid. "*Brass* can do better than the gold what has stood the fire," said the second.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Brass bound and copper fastened (nautical), a term applied to a midshipman when in uniform.

Brasser (Blue Coat School), a bully.

Brass knocker, a phrase used among professional beggars and tramps to signify the broken victuals, which they unwillingly receive instead of money, and commonly throw away on the

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

roadside as soon as they are out of sight of the donors.

Brassy (popular), impudent.

No, Mister Gattle, Betty was too *brassy*,
We never keep a servant that is saucy.
—*Wolcot: Petar Pindar.*

Brazen-faced (common), impudent, shameless. See BRASS.

Bread, or **hard tack** (nautical), biscuit. *Bread* being termed "soft tack."

Bread-and-butter fashion (prostitutes), that is, one (slice) upon another. It was said of two persons caught in the act that "they were lying bread-and-butter fashion."

Bread-and-butter warehouse (old cant), Ranelagh Gardens was so called. See BREAD-AND-BUTTER FASHION.

Bread and meat (military), the commissariat.

Bread bags (army), those connected with the victualling department. Formerly termed "muckers;" French soldiers call them *riz-pain-sel.*

Bread barge (nautical), the tray in which biscuit is handed round.

Bread-basket (popular), the stomach.

. . . The point of a sharp instrument driven right through, close to my knees, with the exclamation, "What do you think of that now in a policeman's *bread-basket?*"—*C. Kingsley: Alton Locke.*

When you can't fill the *bread-basket*, shut it: go to sleep.—*Reade: Never too late to Mend.*

Bread-picker (Winchester), a nominal office, excusing the holder from fagging.

Bread-room (nautical), an old term for stomach.

The waiter returned with a quartern of brandy, which Crowe . . . started into his *bread-room* at one cant.—*Smollett: L. Greaves.*

Bread-room jack (nautical), purser's steward help.

Break (prison), a collection made in aid of one awaiting trial or recently discharged. Literally, pause in street performance when the hat goes round.

The mob got me up a *break* (collection), and I got between five or six foont (sovereigns).—*Rev. J. Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Break or **crack one's egg, to** (cricketers), to make one's first run, thus avoiding the "duck's egg."

Breaking the balls (billiards), commencing the game.

Breaking up of the spell, the (thieves), explained by quotation. *Vide* SPELL.

The breaking up of the spell is the nightly termination of the performance at the Theatre Royal, which is regularly attended by pickpockets of the lower order, who exercise their vocation about the doors and avenues leading thereto, until the house is emptied and the crowd dispersed.—*Vaux's Memoirs.*

Break o' day drum, a tavern which is open all night.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Break out all over (American), a common slang phrase, borrowed from the medical vocabulary. Thus if a man were in a great rage, it might be said that his wrath broke out all over him, or that he smiled from his feet to his eyes. In the following anecdote it is applied to an excessive development of piety.

"'Get down the Bible, we're going to have family prayer.' 'Why! are you going to have family prayer before you have religion?' she asked. Grigger said he wanted it and the minister said if he'd do before he got it as he thought he'd do after he got it he'd have it. Well, Grigger could not get the idea into his head. But Grigger stuck to it, and in a few weeks Grigger was the finest case of religion I ever saw. *It broke out all over him.*"

Break shins, to (common), to borrow money. The French slang equivalent is "donner un coup de pied dans les jambes."

Break the molasses jug, to (American), to make a mistake and come to grief.

Right, dar's whar he *broke his merlasses jug.—Uncle Remus.*

Break the neck of anything, to (common), a phrase signifying that the greater portion of any task has been accomplished.

Breaky-leg (popular), strong drink. The French slang says of a man who has had too much drink that he has "une jambe de vin." (Thieves), a shilling, from the expression "to break shins," which see.

Breast fleet (old slang), Roman Catholics were once known by this name. So called from the practice of making the sign of the cross on their breasts.

Breeched (common), to be well off. The French say of a bankrupt that he is unbreeched, *déculotté.*

(Schoolboys), to be *breeched*, to be flogged.

Breeches (colloquial), a wife who usurps her husband's prerogative is said to "wear the *breeches.*" French, "porter la culotte."

Breeze (common), a quarrel or disturbance—generally "to kick up a *breeze.*"

Breezy (American), cool.

Not since the original enemy of mankind stood up and rebuked sin have we seen such an exhibition of what might be called *breezy* chic (pronounced in this instance cheek) as that exhibited by Carter Harrison, Mayor of Chicago, in coming to New York to give us points on municipal government.—*New York World.*

Brekker (Oxford), breakfast. See FOOTER.

Brevet-wife (common), an unmarried woman, who is represented as married to the man with whom she cohabits.

Brew, to (Marlborough), to have some refreshment in the afternoon at about four o'clock.

Brewer's horse, old cant name for a drunkard. A vulgar stanza on this subject was popular about a hundred years ago or more:—

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"I wish I were a *brewer's horse*
But six months of the year,
I'd take my fill of honest stuff,
And drink up all the beer.
When that was done, what should I do
My thirst to satisfy,
I'd eat up all the corks and bungs,
Give up the ghost and die."

Brian o' Linn (rhyming slang), gin.

Brick (colloquial), a term of commendation applied to a particularly honest, good, jolly, brave, or spirited person.

Steerforth approved of him highly, and told us he was a *brick.—Dickens: David Copperfield.*

It is used sometimes with an adjective prefixed, as an "out-and-out *brick*," a "regular *brick*."

Another familiar word in the university slang is a "regular *brick*," that is, a jolly good fellow, and how the simile is logically deduced is amusing enough. A *brick* is "deep red," so a "deep read" man is a *brick;* a deep read man is in university phrase a "good man;" a good man is a jolly fellow with non-reading men, *ergo* a jolly fellow is a *brick.—Hallberger's Illustrated Magazine.*

It is evident that the figurative sense of the word is in allusion to the shape of a *brick*. In English and other languages straightforwardness is always identified with squareness. "He answered you as square as a *brick*." "He did it on the square."

Brickfielder or **brickduster** (Australian), a dust storm, a kind of whirlwind frequent in Australia during the summer time. Identified by Lieut.-Col Munday with the "southerly burster," so called from the brickdusty feel of the grit with which the wind charges itself as it rolls up the storm.

In October 1848, as I find by my diary, I witnessed a fine instance of a nocturnal *brickfielder*. Awakened by the roaring of the wind I arose and looked out. It was bright moonlight, or it would have been bright but for the clouds of dust, which, impelled by a perfect hurricane, curled up from the earth and absolutely muffled the fair face of the planet. Pulverised specimens of every kind and colour of soil within two miles of Sydney, flew past the house high over the chimney tops in lurid whirlwinds, now white, now red. It had all the appearance of an American prairie fire, barring the fire. . . .

One of the greatest miseries of the "southerly burster" is that (welcome to all animated nature as are its cooling airs) its first symptoms are the signal for a general rush of housemaids to shut hermetically every aperture of the dwelling. The thermometer in the drawing-room and one's own melting mood announce some 86° of heat, while the gale driving so refreshingly past your windows is probably 30° lower; but if you have any regard for sight and respiration, for carpets, chintz, books, and other furniture, you must religiously shut up shop until the chartered libertine, having scavengered the streets of every particle of dust, has moderated its wrath. Even then, however well fitted may be the doors and windows, the volatile atoms will find their way everywhere, to the utter disturbance of household and personal comfort.—*Lieut.-Col. Munday: Our Antipodes.*

The climate of Queensland is very hot. In summer the heat is Indian; and it is a moist, that is to say, an exhausting heat, whereas the summer temperature in other parts of Australia is comparatively dry; drier in South Australia and Victoria than in New South Wales, but when *brickfielders* or dust storms are not blowing, endurable.—*Daily Telegraph.*

Brick in the hat (common), intoxicated, top-heavy. The derivation is obvious.

Bricklayer's clerk (nautical), a contemptuous expression for lubberly people pretending to having seen better days, but who were forced to betake themselves to sea life.

Bridge (card-sharpers), a cheating trick at cards, by which any particular card is cut by previously curving it. French card-sharpers term it "faire le pont."

I've found out the way that Yankee fellow does the king. It's not the common *bridge* that everybody knows.—*Charles Lever: Davenport Dunn.*

To *bridge* a person or throw him over the *bridge*, is, in a general sense, to deceive him by betraying the confidence he has reposed in you. In the game the confederates so play into each other's hands that the victim must inevitably be "thrown over the *bridge*."

Bridle-cull (old cant), a highwayman.

A booty of £10 looks as great in the eye of a *bridle-cull*, and gives as much real happiness to his fancy, as that of as many thousands to the statesman.—*Fielding: Jonathan Wild.*

Brief (prison), a note or letter.

"Just look what I've had sent me. An order to go over the Bank of England." . . .

"Can't you alter the *brief*, to admit three?"

"Oh lor, no; wouldn't try it on; might queer the pitch before starting."—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Brief is a survival of an old English term of common ecclesiastical use in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In French *bref*, both from the Latin *brevis*. See rubric in the Prayer-book. Here *briefs*, citations, and excommunications are to be read. *Briefs* were circular letters issued by authority asking for charitable collections in all churches.

(Thieves), a ticket, pocket-book, pawnbroker's duplicate.

So I claimed (stole) them, . . . and guyed (ran) to the rattler (railway), and took a *brief* to London Bridge.—*Rev. J. Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

"Take it from me," exclaimed the gentleman with the pink may twined round his hat, as he gracefully reclined on the seat of a third-class carriage in the Ascot "special," and leisurely sucked a piece of fried fish, "these 'ere six and sixpenny 'rattlers' may be all right in their way, but give me a thirty-two-blow weekly *brief*! They goes at twice the bloomin' speed, an' you meets a different class o' company!"—*Bird o' Freedom.*

I have snatched at *briefs*, the property of others,
But the punishment was too much to sustain.
Oh send your boy a pound, thou best of mothers;
I'll refund it when the Gee-gees run again.
—*When the Gee-gees Run Again.*

Briefs (cardsharpers), cards constructed on a cheating principle. Like the German *Briefe*, which Baron Heinecken says was the name given to the cards manufactured at Ulm. *Brief* is also the synonym for a card in German slang, and *briefen* means to play at cards.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Brief snatchers (thieves), pick-pockets who devote their attentions to pocket-books on race courses.

Brigh (thieves), pocket. Probably from breeches, but closer in form to the Gaelic *brigis*, whence the French *braies*, breeches, and *brayette* or *braguette*, flap of breeches, which formed a convenient receptacle for small articles when pockets had not superseded the pouch.

Bright (freemasons), an adjective applied to well-instructed masons.

Bright in the eye (popular), a mild state of intoxication.

Brim (old cant), a woman; (common), a violent and irascible woman. *Brim*, a very old English word for angry or enraged, is supposed to be from the raging or roar of the sea. Anglo-Saxon *brim*, surf, surge on the shore.

She raved, she abused me, and splenetic was;
She's a vixen, she's a *brim*, zounds! she's all that is bad.
—*Whim of the Day*, 1799.

Brimstone (old cant), an abandoned rogue, or prostitute; (common), a violent, irascible woman.

The *brimstone* swore I beat her husband, and so I paid for meddling.—*Johnston: Chrysal.*

Confound the woman . . . was there ever such an aggravating *brimstone*!—*J. Greenwood: Almost Lost.*

Bringing down the house (theatrical and journalistic), eliciting thunders of applause.

Bring on your bears! (American), a common form of challenge. It is said that a small boy in the Far West, who lived in a place where bear-killing was a favourite amusement, was very much struck at hearing for the first time the story of Elisha read from the Bible. The next day, while in his log-cabin home, he saw approaching an old man on whose pate not a hair could be seen. He hastily took down his father's rifle and loaded it, sharpened the family bowie-knife, and roared at the ancient passer-by, "Go up, thou Baldhead!" Then looking defiantly up to heaven he cried, "Now, *bring on your bears!*" The *Chicago Tribune* (September 13, 1886) heads a defiant article to England with this exclamation.

Briny (popular), the sea. French slang, "la grande salée."

He delights in collaring a greenhorn, and after pouring into his willing ears tales of unutterable woe and adventures undergone on the *briny* . . .—*H. Evans: The Brighton Beach Loafer.*

Brisket-beater (popular), a Roman Catholic (Hotten).

Brismelah (Anglo-Yiddish), the ceremony of circumcision. *Beris*, a covenant; *beris hamiloh*, the covenant of circumcision.

The practice, however, of putting round the hat at *brismelahs* has fallen off considerably. At one place I knows of, where they haves a annual baby every Purim,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the family Mohel had become such a nuisance with his begging that at the last *brismelah* they couldn't get enough Yidden for mezooman, let alone minyan, and if it hadn't been for the potman calling from the Cat and Trumpet they'd never a been able to bring the *brismelah* off at all.—*Sporting Times.*

Bristol milk (old), sherry. Bristol was the chief port at which vessels from Spain carrying cargoes of this wine used to arrive—hence the name.

Broach the claret, to (pugilistic).

'Twas not till the tenth round his *claret was broach'd*,
But a pelt in the smeller, too pretty to shun,
If the lad even could set it going like fun.
—*Tom Cribb's Memorial to Congress.*

Broad and shallow (popular), an epithet applied to the so-called "*Broad* Church," in contradistinction to the "High" and "Low" Churches (Hotten).

Broad bottom. Explained by quotation.

A coalition Government in the last century was known by the apt nickname of the *Broad Bottom*. Walpole, writing Mann in 1741, says: "The Tories declare against any further prosecution—if Tories there are, for now one hears of nothing but the *Broad Bottom;* it is the reigning cant word, and means the taking all parties and people indifferently into the Ministry." —*Cornhill Magazine.*

Broad brim (common), originally a Quaker, thus called from the peculiar hat worn by the "friends." Now used in reference to quiet, sedate men.

A veteran correspondent, who inspired "The Druid" with many of his paragraphs, writes us that Mr. W., the breeder of Fair Alice, did not stand alone as we imagined, and that Mr. K., the owner of Priscilla Tomboy, was also a *broad brim.*—*Sporting Times.*

Broad cooper (brewers), a person employed by brewers to negotiate with publicans (Hotten).

Broad faking (card-sharpers), playing at cards, or doing the three-card trick on race-courses, &c.

Broads (popular and thieves), cards.

"Yes, he was a red hot 'un," quoth the Horticulturist, "and at the *broads* he was unrivalled. But he played it too thick at Brighton that week."—*Sporting Times.*

He then took another business at Walworth, and got on well while he forswore the "infernal *broads*," as he called them. —*J. Greenwood: Tag, Rag, & Co.*

Broadsman (thieves), a card-sharper.

Broady (tailors), among East End tailors broadcloth is so called. Also a general term for cloth.

Gentlemen finding their own *broady* can be accommodated.—*A Slang Advertisement.*

"*Broady* workers are men who go round selling vile shoddy stuff under the pretence that it is excellent material, which has been got 'on the cross,' that is, 'stolen'" (Hotten).

(Thieves), *broady*, anything worth stealing.

Brock, to (Winchester), to bully. Literally, to badger. From *brock*, a badger.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Brockster (Winchester), a bully.

Brogan (American), coarse, strong shoes. From *brogues*, coarse shoes, which, according to Kennett, are shoes made of rough hide used by the wild Irish. Irish *brog*, a shoe.

Broiled crow, to eat (American). A newspaper editor who is obliged by his party, or other outside influences, to advocate principles different from those which he supported a short time before, is said to *eat broiled crow*, more commonly "to eat crow."

Broke (common), hard-up, reduced to one's last sou.

There was a young plunger, who smartly
Snapped up the big books about Martley;
Then came the *fiasco*,
And Ben cried "Carrasco!
I'm bested, *broke*, busted—or partly!"
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Broke her leg (American), said of an unmarried woman who has had a child. In French theatrical slang, a lady who is *enceinte* "a mal au genou," the result of a *faux-pas*.

Broken. When a corporal at the R. M. Academy is reduced for some irregularity or misconduct he is said to be *broken*.

Broken knees (popular), a woman who has made a slip, or been seduced, is said to have *broken knees*. The Germans say she has "lost a shoe." The analogy existing in each language between the phrase and the language of the stable is curious.

Brolly (Winchester), a corruption of umbrella. The term is used also at the universities.

I saw great Goshen stamping on the pave,
I saw that famous man his *brolly* wave;
I heard a naughty word, and I am free
To own that that same word began with D.
—*Funny Folks.*

Broncho (American), wild or savage, unruly. A Western term derived from the *broncho* or mustang, an unruly brute.

"Oh! I don't know. He'd been singing the music to 'em" (imitating them). "Sam's too *broncho*." — *F. Francis: Saddle and Mocassin.*

Broom it, to (old slang), to run away.

Broomstick (common), to be married "over the *broomstick*," to live as man and wife without being married.

Young ladies had fain single women remain,
And unwedded dames to the last crack of doom stick,
Ere marry by taking a jump o'er a *broomstick*.
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

An allusion to a marriage ceremony performed by both parties jumping over a broomstick.

Broomsticks (thieves), insolvent bail. Called also "queer-bail," "straw bail," "Jew bail," &c.

"Queer-bail are persons of no repute, hired to bail a prisoner in any bailable case. These men are to be had in London for a trifling sum, and are called *broomsticks*" (Vaux's Glossary).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Brosh (American), brittle. Dutch, *bros*, frail, brittle. A New York word.

Brother-chip (popular), originally fellow-carpenter. Almost general now as brother tradesman of any kind.

Brother smut (popular), used in the phrase "ditto *brother smut*," equivalent to *tu quoque*. Sometimes "ditto smut" when addressed to a woman.

Brother starling (old slang). "He's a *brother starling* of mine," *i.e.* he cohabits with the same mistress and shares her favours.

Brown (popular), halfpenny.

My father he is on the seas, my mother's dead and gone,
And I am here, on this here pier, to roam the world alone;
I have not had, this live-long day, one drop to cheer my heart,
Nor *brown* to buy a bit of bread with, let alone a tart.
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

How much ha' we took to-day, Jim?
Why, not a single *brown*,
And our show was one o' the best
Once, and we rode from town to town.
—*George R. Sims: Ballads of Babylon.*

I took Parr's pills, which brought on premature old age; and here I am, as you sees, a wicktem to misfortune. My heart is busting for a buster, my mag is for a mag. So throw down your *browns*, kind-hearted Christians, and be done *brown* and "no mistake."—*Diprose: Laugh and Learn.*

(Common), to "do it *brown*," to do well or completely.

What with "cabbys" and with "wires,"
When anything transpires
To send the market either up or down,
In aërated "Breads,"
Or "Shores," or "Yanks," or "Reds,"
In slang we really do it rather *brown*.
—*Aikin: House Scraps.*

(Popular), to *brown*, to understand.

"I can *brown* almost any poetry," said George, "but not *Browning*."—*Newspaper Story.*

And when they ask me if I *brown* such language, I ne'er hear or read as to *browning*; I'm done *brown* instead.—*T. K. Symns: The Age of Betting.*

Browns and whistlers (thieves), explained by extract. "*Browns and Whistlers* are bad halfpence and farthings (it is a term used by coiners") (Vaux's Glossary).

Brown Bess (common), the old Government regulation musket. Soldiers of all nations are fond of giving names of persons to their weapons. The French troopers sometimes call their sword "Jacqueline," and most of the siege guns during the siege of Paris in 1870 had been nicknamed in the same manner by the sailors who manned the forts, their favourite being a very large gun called "Joséphine." "To hug *brown Bess*," to serve as a private soldier. (Rhyming slang), yes.

Brown Bessie, an old word for a woman of easy or uneasy virtue. Also *black Bess*.

Things proffered and easie to come by diminish themselves in reputation and price, for how full of pangs and dotage is a wayling lover, for it may bee some *brown Bessie*.—*Dore's Polydoron*, 1631.

NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF INDIA

"*Bonny black Bess*" was a very popular scandalous ballad a century ago.

Brown bill (old), the old weapon of the English infantry.

Brown George (nautical), a hard and coarse biscuit.

Brownie (whalers), the polar bear.

Brown Janet (nautical), a knapsack.

Brown Joe (rhyming slang), no.

Brown papermen (popular), explained by quotation.

But the little nick (a gambling-house) is what we call only *brown papermen*, low gambling, playing for pence, and a shilling being a great go.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

Brown stone (American), beer.

Brown talk (common), conversation of an exceedingly proper character.

Brown typhus, brown titus, and in America **brown creeturs,** an attempt at the pronunciation of bronchitis, or the names frequently given by the lower orders to that common disease. These misnomers are sometimes most amusing, as, for instance, a poor woman had been told she had *myxœdema*, and informed a second medical man that her first doctor had said that she had got *Nicodemus;* but, she added, he could not cure it.

Browny (thieves), a penny.

Dols. is *brownies*, as we call 'em sometimes, that's pence. — *Hamilton Aïdé: Morals and Mysteries.*

Browse, to, to enjoy oneself, to idle about, to loll in the sun. French *faire son lézard.* The expression is much used by gentlemen cadets of the Royal Military Academy. In the United States, to eat here and there, now and then, an expression of Abraham Lincoln's.

Bruiser (prison), the bully who is a hanger-on of prostitutes.

The *bruiser* is the nearest approach to Dickens' hero, Bill Sykes. — *Michael Davitt: Leaves from a Prison Diary.*

(Common), a pugilist. (Pugilistic), a prize-fighter. (Popular), one fond of fighting.

C., who is known in the neighbourhood as a "great *bruiser*," pleaded that he made a mistake, and thought Conway was molesting the woman, who he also mistook for his wife. He goes to jail for six weeks. —*Echo.*

Brum (Winchester), stingy, mean. Probably an abbreviation of Brummagem. (Popular and thieves), a counterfeit coin. Also Birmingham.

We have just touched for a rattling stake of sugar (large stake of money) at *Brum.* —*Cornhill Magazine.*

Brumby (Australian), a wild horse.

Brummagem (common), Birmingham, applied to anything vulgar or counterfeit.

Those may be *Brummagem* or Manchester manners, but they won't go down here.—*Rhoda Broughton: Cometh up as a Flower.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Never let yourself be deceived by *Brummagem* and paste.—*Miss Thackeray: Old Kensington.*

He whipped out his *Brummagem* blade so keen,
And he made three slits in the buffalo's hide,
And all its contents, through the rents and the vents,
Come tumbling out,—and away they all hied!

—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Brummagem was originally spelled *Bromidgham*, and its first connection with anything spurious or sham came from the so-called Bromidgham groat, a counterfeit fourpenny piece. It was subsequently applied to a person who was neither Whig nor Tory (Halliwell).

Brummagem buttons (popular), counterfeit coin.

Want change for a fiver—bad silver, *Brummagem buttons*, won't do.—*Dickens: Pickwick Papers.*

Brums (Stock Exchange), London and North Western Railway stock.

We kneel at the feet of our "Nancys,"
We load them with "cottons" and "tapes,"
If anything tickles our fancy,
We buy them *Brums*, "Caleys," or "Apes."

—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

(Popular), the inhabitants of Birmingham. From "Brummagem."

The *Brums* must really look to the morals of their town a little more.—*Modern Society.*

Joe Capp is the most sensibly dressed man who goes racing. He wears a long, cool-looking alpaca surtout; but it was rough on Joe, after losing fourteen thick 'uns at Four Oaks, when a *Brum*, whom he elbowed out of the way, remarked—

"Don't think you're heverybody because you make your coat hout o' the pore bloomink slavey's Sunday skirt."—*Sporting Times.*

Brung (American), brought. A writer on Americanisms is slightly mistaken in saying that white men use it as a "very mild joke." It is very often a stinging insult, and the writer has seen a man in Boston very angry because he was asked in jest, "Where were you *brung* up?" The insult was in the intimation that the man was familiar with or in the habit of using such an expression.

Brush (popular), a house-painter.

Brush, to have a (old), to have sexual intercourse, when applied to women; also to run away.

Brusher (old slang), a bumper. "To drink a *brusher*" was to drink from a full glass. (Schools), an abbreviation of "bum-*brusher*," a schoolmaster.

Brush up, to (American), to humbug or flatter, to smooth, conciliate. Brushing up a flat, "prancing," flattering (New York Slang Dictionary).

Brydport dagger (old), explained by quotation.

Stab'd with a *Brydport dagger*, that is, hang'd or executed at the gallowes; the best, if not the most, hemp (for the quantity of ground) growing about Brydport.—*Fuller: Dorset Worthies.*

Bub, bubby (American), a term very commonly applied to a

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

little boy. It came from Pennsylvania, where it was derived from the German *bube*, which is commonly abbreviated to *bub*.

"'*Bub*,' he said to a little shaver coming out of the savings-bank with a book in his hand, 'are you saving money?'

"'Yes, sir.'

"'How much have you got in the bank?'

"'Eight cents, sir. I did have thirteen, but father got in straitened financial circumstances and I had to draw five.'"

Bub (thieves), strong malt liquor; generally drink.

Ay, *bub* and grubby, I say,
Lots of gatter, quo' she, are flowing.
—*W. Maginn: Vidocq's Slang Song.*

Also a brother.

Bubber (American), applied to any woman (old or young) with full, well-rounded breasts, or *bubbies*, whence the term.

Bubble-buff (old), a bailiff.

Bubbley jock (popular), a turkey; a stupid, boasting person.

Bubbling squeak (army), hot soup. Properly, *bubble and squeak* is a dish composed of pieces of cold boiled meat and greens, afterwards fried, which have thus first bubbled in the pot, and then hissed or squeaked in the pan.

Bubs, bubbies (common), a woman's breasts. From *bub*, drink.

Buck. This almost obsolete word, for what the French called a *petit-maître*, and more recently *daim* (literally *buck*), has been gradually superseded by "blood," "dandy," "maccaroni," "swell," "Bond Street lounger," "exquisite," "dude," and "masher."

(American, cards), a device for securing a good ante at poker or brag. The player whose turn it is to ante, instead of putting up money, puts up a knife, key, or any small article, saying, "I ante a *buck* worth $5," or whatever sum he chooses to name. If he has not won it back himself when he retires, he must redeem it from the possessor at the price named. The peculiarity of the *buck* is that whoever holds it must ante it when it comes to his turn. Whenever it is desired to bring the game to a close, a good finish is secured by agreeing to "chase the *buck* home," *i.e.*, whoever wins it has the next deal, and consequently antes it. The game stops as soon as the *buck* has been won back by the player who originally started it.

(Cabdrivers), a sham "fare" in a cab. A *buck* is a man who rides in a cab ostensibly as a legitimate fare, to enable the cabman to proceed to some destination to which he is not allowed to take an empty cab. Many of the semi-private thoroughfares of London are closed to empty cabs.

Mr. ——, on behalf of the United Cab Proprietors' Protection Association, said it often occurred that the men who were so conveyed were *bucks*—men who rode in

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

a cab ostensibly as legitimate fares. In reality they acted in collusion with the driver to evade the police regulations, especially with regard to theatres.—*Standard.*

(Popular), a sixpence. The word is rarely used by itself, but as in the phrase, "two and a *buck*." More frequently "two and a kick." Possibly from the gypsy *bāk* (pronounced buck), luck, as it is always asked for for luck.

(Old slang), to "run a *buck*," to poll a bad vote at an election. This phrase is of Irish origin.

(American), to *buck* is to butt against, to oppose.

Yer oughter be ershamed o' yerse'f ter porsecute 'ligion in dis way. W'y how de work o' de Lawd gwine ter prosper when de white folks *bucks* ergin it dis way? I'se sorry fur yer, fur old Satan got his eye on yer, sho.—*Arkansaw Traveller.*

To rear up, to jump like a *buck*, to jump and "cavort." Applied to a peculiar leaping of Western horses. Dutch, *boken maken*, to cut capers; *bok-stavast*, leap-frog.

The term is used also in South Africa and Australia.

I don't think that we have a beast
About the place that *bucks* the least.
—*D. B. W. Sladen: A Summer Christmas.*

(Banking), "to *buck* an account" is to make an account balance without carrying it out properly, *i.e.*, to cook the accounts.

(Californian), in the Californian vernacular this signifies to play against the bank, as, *e.g.*, in faro, that is, to sweep the tables, or clean out or gut the croupier.

I don't like your looks at all, I'd *buck* against any bank you ran all night.—*Bret Harte: Gabriel Conroy.*

(Winchester College), "to *buck* down" is to be unhappy, whilst to "*buck* up" is to be glad.

(Anglo-Indian), to talk egotistically, to prate and chatter, to let one's tongue run loose. From the Hindu *baknā*.

And then he *bucks*, with a quiet stubborn determination that would fill an American editor or an Under Secretary of State with despair. He belongs to the twelve foot tiger school, so perhaps he can't help it.—*Ali Baba.*

Buck-bail (thieves), bail given by a sharper for one of his own gang.

Buck fitch (old), an old man of abandoned habits, an old *roué*. A "*buck* face," an injured husband, alluding to the horns.

Buck or fight the tiger, to (American), to gamble. Derived from the parti-coloured divisions or stripes on a gambling table.

This little oil town, on the line of the Olean, Bradford, and Warren Railroad, and partly in Pennsylvania and partly in New York, is the greatest poker-playing place in the entire northern oilfield. It is a town in which all the residents "*buck* the festive *tiger*."—*Chicago Tribune.*

Buckeen (Irish), a bully, an inferior sort of squire.

There were several squireens or little squires, a race of men who have succeeded to the *buckeens* described by Young and Crumpe.—*Miss Edgeworth: Absentee.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Bucket (American), an anonymous letter. (Common), to "give the *bucket*," to dismiss, to dismiss from one's employ.

He were sore put about because Hester had gi'en him the *bucket*.—*Mrs. Gaskell: Sylvia's Lovers.*

(University), to *bucket* is to scoop the water instead of pulling the oar steadily and fairly through.

(Popular), to *bucket* a person, to deceive, ruin him. To kick the *bucket*, to die.

"Fine him a pot," roared one, "for talking about *kicking the bucket*. He's a nice young man to keep a cove's spirits up, and talk about a 'short life and a merry one.'"—*C. Kingsley: Alton Locke.*

Dr. Brewer gives the following explanation: "A bucket is a pulley. . . . When pigs are killed they are hung by their hind legs on a bucket . . . and oxen are hauled up by a pulley. . . . To kick the *bucket* is to be hung on the bulk or *bucket* by the heels."

Bucket afloat (rhyming slang), a coat.

Bucket-shop (American), a *bucket* has in America several meanings, all indicating underhand or concealed dealings. The term is applied to low groggeries, and also to places which advertise as below cost flashy goods which are sold at a large profit. Low, swindling, gambling places, or lottery offices, also bear this name, and in Chicago it appears from the following extract to be borne by broker establishments where "corners" are manipulated.

The latest story out to account for the recent strength in the wheat market, is to the effect that it is the result of a combined effort to "burst the *bucket-shops*."

(Stock Exchange), the office of an outside broker of doubtful character.

A disreputable gambling case which came before the Divisional Court yesterday is noteworthy for the remarks made on "the vice of gambling in stocks and shares" by two judges. A gambler had sued a firm of *bucket-shop* keepers for profits alleged to have been made on "certain transactions," and the latter coolly pleaded the statute against wagering and gaming in defence.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Buckhara (American), a California name for a cattle driver. It is the Spanish *vaquero.*

Buckhorse (pugilistic). "A smart blow or box on the ear; derived from the name of the celebrated 'bruiser'" (John Smith, alias *Buckhorse*, fought on the stage 1732–46), according to Hotten's Dictionary.

Buckle, to (Scottish), to marry, a vulgarism used by D'Urfey in his imitation of a Scotch song, popular in the time of Charles II., "Within a mile of Edinburgh Toun." The phrase is still current in England among the lower classes, among whom to be "buckled" not only means to be married, but to be taken into custody.

Buckle-beggar (old), a man who officiated as a clergyman to per-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

form the marriage ceremony in the Fleet Prison; also a hedge-priest, who performs the ceremony of marriage among tramps and gypsies.

Buckled (thieves), imprisoned. French slang, *bouclé.*

Why, I was *buckled* because I got drunk. It was a pure accident. Had I followed my usual work I should never have fallen. —*Evening News.*

Buckler, a collar (New York Slang Dictionary).

Buckra yam (West Indian). As in negro eyes "the white man," or *buckra*, is the synonym of something superior and beyond him in the scale of being, so the word has come to mean anything good. Thus *buckra yam*, good yam; *buckra* cloth, good cloth. A "swanga *buckra*" is a specially well-dressed white man.

Bucks (West Indian), the cognomen of the aboriginal inhabitants of British Guiana—the South American Indians.

Bud (American), a "society" word for young lady debutantes, or "come outers," in their first season.

There's nothing so beautiful to me as a beautiful girl. I doubt if any man can better understand or be more truly in love with the dear perfectness of nature than I am. O girls, *do* appreciate girls. At my last ball the kids (youths) were tearing around . . . but even the shyest and greenest of *buds* knows that the admiration of the kid isn't worth having, it is so easy to get and as hard to get rid of.—*Madge: Letter in the New York World.*

Budge (thieves), a thief; especially one who sneaks into a shop and is locked in, thus getting a chance to admit an accomplice. Formerly a pickpocket. Probably from *bouget, budge, budget*, a sack, pouch, wallet. A drink.

Budge, the sneaking (old slang), robbing private houses of light small articles, such as coats, hats, &c.; now called "area sneak" or "hall sneak." "*Budge* clothes," lambs' fur formerly used for trimming the robes of Bachelors of Arts (Halliwell). Standing *budge*, a thief, scout, or spy.

Budger (thieves), a drunkard.

Budgerow (Anglo-Indian). Hindu, *bujra*. A heavy keelless barge, formerly much used by Europeans travelling on the Gangetic rivers (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

The *bujra* broad, the *bholia* trim,
Or pinnaces that gallant swim
With favouring breeze, or dull or slow,
Against the heady current go.
—*H. H. Wilson in Bengal Annual.*

Budging-ken (thieves), a public house, the "cove of the *budging-ken*" being the landlord.

Budmash (Anglo-Indian), a bad, worthless fellow; a scoundrel.

Gamblers, cut-throats, *budmashes* of every description. — *Bosworth Smith: Life of Lord Lawrence.*

Budzat (Anglo-Indian), from the Persian *badzat*, evil race. A low

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

fellow, a "bad lot," a blackguard.

Why the Shaitan (devil) didn't you come before, you lazy old *budzart?*—*Anglo-Indian Glossary: The Dank Bungalow.*

Buff (tramps), among the tramping fraternity a *buff-ball* is a dancing party, characterised by the indecency of those who attend it, the *costume de rigueur* being that of our first parents.

The most favourite entertainment at this place is known as "*buff-ball*," in which both sexes—innocent of clothing—madly join, stimulated with raw whisky and the music of a fiddle and a tin whistle. —*James Greenwood: In Strange Company.*

(Old slang), to "stand *buff*," to bear the brunt, to pay the piper; also "to boast," given as a very old word by "Batman uppon Bartholome," 1582.

To *buff*, defined by Hotten as simply meaning to swear to; but the following, from the New York Slang Dictionary, gives the spirit of the word very accurately: "Buffing it home is swearing point-blank to anything, about the same as bluffing it, making a bold stand on no backing."

Buffer (common), a man, a fellow.

But aged, slow, with stiff limbs, tottering much,
And lungs that lacked the bellows-mender's touch,
Yet sprightly to the scratch both *buffers* came.
—*Tom Cribb's Memorial to Congress*

I'll merely observe as the water grew rougher,
The more my poor hero continued to suffer,
Till the sailors themselves cried in pity,
Poor *buffer!*
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Also a merry companion with a spice of the rogue in him, the Falstaff of a century ago. *Buffer* or *buffard* is a provincialism for a foolish fellow. In Dutch, *boef* or *boefer*, means, according to the Groot Wordenbock der Engelsche en Nederduytsche Jaalen of William Sewell, "a rogue, knave, or wag," which is identical both in sound and meaning with the English word.

(Popular), a dog, from the old cant word *bufe*, a dog. (Old cant), a smuggler, a rogue, a cheat; also a dog. *Buffer-nabber*, a dog-stealer. (Nautical), *buffer*, a navy term for a boatswain's mate, one of whose duties it was to administer the "cat." From the obsolete English to *buff*, to strike. It has been suggested, however, that *buffer* is of Dutch origin. Teirlinck (Woordenbock van Bargoensch) gives *baf*, a blow; *baffen*, to strike with the fist, adding "Klanknabootsend idiotisme van dagelijksch gebrink in Vlanderen."

Buffle-headed (popular), stupid and stolid as a buffalo or ass. Synonymous with "pig-headed," stupidly obstinate.

You know nothing, you *buffle-headed*, stupid creature. — *Wycherley: Plain Dealer.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Buffs (common), the 3rd regiment of foot in the British army. From their facings.

Buffy (common), intoxicated.

Flexor was fine and *buffy* when he came home last night.—*Shirley Brooks: The Gordian Knot.*

Bug (American and English thieves), a breast-pin; *bugger*, a pickpocket, or one who makes a specialty of snatching away breast-pins, studs, &c.; *bug-hunter*, the same.

The chips, the fawneys, chatty-feeders,
The *bugs*, the boungs, and well-filled readers.

—*On the Trail.*

i.e., The money, the rings, spoons,
Breast-pins, purses, and well-filled pocket-books.

(American and older English), *bug*, which in England is now limited to the *Cimex*, politely termed a Norfolk Howard, is in America still applied to all varieties of the *Coleoptera* and many other insects.

"Oh, Fred, what's that ticking noise? Do you think it's the death watch mamma was reading about before she put us to bed?" "Bessie, don't be a little goose. It's only a *bug*, anyhow. Maybe it's not even a *bug*—only the bed-ticking."—*Philadelphia Call.*

(Old slang), to *bug*, an old phrase in use at one time among journeymen hatters to signify the substitution of good material with inferior stuff. Bailiffs who accepted money to delay service of writs were also said "to *bug* the writ."

Bug or **bug over, to** (thieves), to deliver, give or hand over. Vaux instances: "He *bug'd* me a quid," *i.e.*, he gave me a guinea; "*bug over* the rag," *i.e.*, hand over the money.

Bugaroch (American thieves), pretty (New York Slang Dictionary).

Bug blinding (army), white-washing, a process calculated to destroy, or at least to remove the superficial traces of vermin that are a perfect pest in the more antiquated barracks, especially in warm climates.

Bugging (American), taking money from a thief by a policeman. This indicates the existence of an old word "bug" for money as well as valuables. In Dutch slang, *bucht* is money.

Buggy (old cant), a leather bottle. It now signifies a gig or light chaise.

Bug hunter (thieves), a thief who plunders drunken men.

Bug juice (army), ginger ale. In America applied to very bad whiskey.

Bugle it, to (American cadet), to abstain from attending class and reciting until the bugle sounds for attention.

Bug walk (popular), a bed.

Build, to (or **it**) (American), said of a man who is slow to move, or of an affair which requires great exertion. It is taken from

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

a boy's trick of putting a coal under a tortoise to make it walk.

"I have a letter of introduction to Mr. Samuel Slump. Can you tell me if he is a man of drinking habits?" "Wall, stranger," replied the citizen, expectorating copiously, "I wouldn't go so fur as to say that Sam is a hard drinker, but I reckon if you ask him to go an' take suthin, you won't have to *build a fire under him* to git him started."—*American Newspaper.*

(Nautical), to "*build* a chapel" is to turn a ship round through bad steering.

Building spots for sale (American), used of any imperfect person or thing.

Built that way (common), "not *built that way*," not in one's line.

Black Moustache addresses the divinity as "Popsie," and she calls him "Bob." During the evening they have *impromptu* dancing. Smith can't dance; he isn't *built that way*, and Miss Jones says that Black Moustache waltzes delightfully. All of which means that the following week is one of agony for young S., who moodily meditates leaving England for ever, and straightway abjures the harmless necessary shave.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Bulgarian atrocity (Stock Exchange), Varna and Rustchuk Railway 3 per cent. obligations.

And we've really quite a crew
Of fancy names to represent a share . . .
But fancy, by the way,
Now, in the present day,
A Varna's a *Bulgarian atrocity.*
—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

Bulge (American), properly to *bulge* is to swell out, and *bulge* is a swelling or belly. In the United States the words are extended and amplified in many ways. Thus there is a story of a man who, being tried for shooting his neighbour, pleaded that he had only aimed at the *bulge* of his shirt where it "bagged out" above his trousers. "To get the *bulge*" on a man, appears to mean to have the better of him. As *bulge* conveys the idea of swelling or inflation or expansion, it is much used to indicate magnitude or extravagance. Thus to go "*bulging* about" conveys the same idea as "splurging" (which see).

Bulger. This English word, signifying a large object or creature, is much more extensively used in the United States than in the mother-country. "New York is a *bulger* of a place," said Colonel Crockett in 1835. At Princeton College (New Jersey) the largest and heaviest of the students is familiarly called *bulger.* The negro minstrel word *bullgine*, for a locomotive, appears to be a compound, the first part of which is derived rather from *bulge* than "bull," as implying bigness.

I got on board de telegraf an' floated down de ribber,
De 'lectric fluid magnified and killed five hundred nigger.
De *bullgine* burst, de steam went off, I really tought I'd die;
I shut my eyes to hold my breath—Susanna don't you cry!
—*Song of O Susanna.*

Bulk and file (old), two thieves working together. The *bulk* jostles the victim against the *file*, who robs him of his money or watch.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Bulker (old cant), a street-walking prostitute; from "bulk," that formerly signified the body.

She must turn *bulker* (when her cloathes are worn out), at which trade I hope to see you suddenly.—*Ravenscroft*, 1670.

Bulky (Winchester College), generous, open-handed, as opposed to "brum."

Bull, now recognised and applied to a blunder, formerly meant any kind of rough, blundering, or foolish jest or trick, and is of the same root with *bully* in its sense of a clown or merry-maker. Old Dutch *bollaert* (Skeat), "a jester or a gyber." Swedish *bullra*, to make a noise. *Buller* in Anglo-Norman means an equivocator or deceiver, which unmistakably indicates the existence of *bull* in the modern sense.

The sexte case is of fals *bullers*,
Baith that tham makes and that tham wers.
—*MS. Cottan. Vespasian* (*Halliwell*).

The term *bull*-calf itself (Shakspeare), and *bull*-finch, a stupid fellow (North Country), all indicate the association with blundering and stupidity which is implied by *bull*. The word was first specially identified with Hibernian mistakes by Miss Edgeworth in her "Essay on Irish Bulls." (Popular), a roaring horse.

(Popular and thieves), a crown, an abbreviation of its former appellation, a bull's eye.

. . . Then giv' me a little money, four half *bulls*, wot you may call half-crowns, and ses, hook it!—*Charles Dickens.*

(Prison), rations of meat; an uncomplimentary reference to the toughness of the beef supplied. The French slang has *bidoche*, for meat, from *bidet*, a pony.

(Stock Exchange), explained by first quotation.

Berliner is puzzled by the terms *bull* and "bear," that he often sees in the papers in connection with the Stock Exchange. . . . These terms are as old as the time of the South Sea Bubble, 1710. A man who contracted to sell stock of which he was not possessed was called a "bear," in allusion to the proverb, "Selling the skin before you have caught the bear," and he who bought, without intending to receive the stock, was called a *bull*, by way of distinction. To *bull* the market is now to raise the price of stock when operating for a sale, while to "bear" it is to use every effort to depress the price of stock in order to buy it.

So was the huntsman by the bear oppressed,
Whose hide he sold before he caught the beast.
—*Tit Bits.*

A man was complaining that he had lost all his money through gambling on the Stock Exchange. A friend ventured to ask him if he had been a *bull* or a "bear"? and was told "Neither, I was an ass."—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

(American thieves), a locomotive.

. . . Had just touched a bloke's leather as the *bull* bellowed for the last time.—*On the Trail.*

Bull and cow (rhyming slang), a row.

Bull-dance (nautical), a dance without women; also called a "stag-dance."

Bull-dog (university), one of the duties of the university proctors is to promenade the town in search of offending undergraduates. Certain men, who are termed *bull-dogs*, accompany him. Their duty is to chase the offender, whose ingenuity in evading capture gives rise to many amusing stories. Many a long race too often ends in finding their prey is an outsider, whom they have no interest in catching.

The proctor's satellites, vulgarly called *bull-dogs.—Macmillan's Magazine.*

I don't mean the college *bull-dogs*, they don't interfere with us, only with women. —*H. Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

(Old slang), a pistol, now a short thick revolver.

"I have always a brace of *bull-dogs* about me." . . . So saying, he exhibited a very handsome, highly-finished, and richly mounted pair of pistols.—*Sir W. Scott: St. Ronan's Well.*

(Nautical), the great gun which stands "housed" in the officers' wardroom cabin. General term for main-deck guns.

Bull-dog blazer (American), a short thick revolver.

The manager laid down a large cane he had in his hand, and picked up instead a trusty *bull-dog blazer*, as he said—

"Young man, I don't think you can be of any service to me, and you'd better slide."

"Assuredly; but you don't happen to have a shilling you could lend me?"

"No, I don't," and the manager cocked the revolver.

"Well, say; let me into the show, will you?"—*Green Room.*

Bull-doze, to (American), to compel a person to do anything, or to influence his conduct by cruelty or brute force. It is derived from a Southern word meaning a whip or cowhide, or species of "kurbatch," made from the *glans penis* of a bull. It is said that negroes were whipped almost to death with this, or *bull-dozed* to make them vote the Democratic ticket. It is now extensively used in the United States, to express compulsion of any kind, especially in politics.

Bull-dozer (American), a revolver. Used to mean a persuader, something to enforce an argument by personal violence. *Vide* BULL-DOZE.

Bullet (army), discharge upon the spot, without a moment's notice.

(Printers), see DRY-UP, and QUI. According to Savage's "Dictionary of the Art of Printing," 1841, a workman was said to have got the *bullet* when he was discharged *instanter*—without the customary notice on either side.

Bullets (cards), in American brag, are aces; sometimes called white aces, in contradistinction to aces made up by holding braggers. The highest hand in the game is three white (or real) aces, the next highest is "two *bullets* and a bragger," which cannot, of course, occur in the same round in which three real

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

aces are held, though another player may hold two other *bullets* and a bragger at the same time. Hence the expression "the serene confidence which a Christian feels in the three white aces."

Bullfinch (provincial), a corruption of "bull fence," a stiff fence able to keep bulls out of or in a field.

The third fence was a teazer, an ugly *bullfinch* with a ditch on the landing side. —*Guy Livingstone.*

Also a stupid fellow.

Bulljine (nautical) a locomotive is so called by sailors. Termed "bull" by American thieves.

Bull-money, a vulgar phrase for money extorted by a chance witness from the man detected in the fields, the woods, the seashore, or other lonely place, in the act of carnal copulation.

Bullock's heart (printers), see TOKEN. This is a term of contempt that pressmen apply to a single "token," or order to print, of two hundred and fifty copies only, the lowest paying number in the scale of prices. This expression is due to the circumstance that it is not a "fat" but a "lean" job, hence the comparison to a *bullock's heart*, which, unless suffering from "fatty degeneration," is the essence of leanness.

Bullock's horn (rhyming slang), in pawn.

Bullocky (Australian, upcountry), a bullock-team driver. In the bush all the heavy hauling is done with bullock-drags. It is quite a common sight up the country to see teams of a dozen and upwards. *Bullockirs* in Australia are as proverbial as bargees or Billingsgate fishwives in England for the forcibleness of their language.

"When you make Mokepilly," quoth one of the sunburnt *bullocky* men, "keep on by the brush fence, and that will take you right into the gap. Gee hup, Streaky; ya-hoy-ya, Strorb'ry."—*T. C. Work: Australasian Printer's Keepsake.*

Bull party, an assembly, gathering, or dinner party of men only.

Bull puncher (American), a word defined as follows by one who was himself of the calling:—

He followed the profession of a *bull-puncher;* that is, he went in charge of the cattle destined for slaughter and "canning" in the distant North, and made money at it, being steady and trustworthy, and no drinker.—*Morley Roberts: The Western Avernus.*

Bull's-eye villas (military), the small open-air tents used by the volunteers at their annual rifle contest held on Wimbledon Common.

Bull's feathers, horns. To describe a man as wearing *bull's feathers* was to represent him as a cuckold.

Three crooked horns, smartly top-knotted with ribands; which being the ladies' wear, seem to intimate that they may very probably adorn, as well as bestow, the *bull's feather.*—*Richardson: Clarissa Harlowe.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

The attribute of horns to a cuckold is of remote antiquity, and is supposed by symbolists of the school of Creuzer and Faber to be derived from the horns of cattle, also of the new moon, at which time festivals were held in Assyria, where all women were in common, and men who were among the initiated bore the symbol and were compared to oxen. Horns as worn on the head were suggestive of feathers in a cap, hence *bull's feathers* (Charles G. Leland, U.S. Notes).

The French have a corresponding expression: "planter des plumes de bœuf."

On me dit qu'elle est bien gente
Qu'elle est douce comme un agneau.
Par ma foi! j'ai peur que'mplante
Plumes de bœuf à mon chapeau!
—*Song.*

Bull the cask, to (nautical), to pour hot water into an empty rum puncheon, and let it stand until it extracts the spirit from the wood. The mixture is drunk by sailors in default of something stronger.

Bull-traps, thieves or swindlers who personate policemen (New York Slang Dictionary).

Bully (American), often applied in a commendable sense by the vulgar; as, for instance, a *bully* fellow, a *bully* horse.

Hope you had a pleasant nap, *bully* place for a nice quiet snooze.—*Bret Harte: Poems and Prose.*

The captain said she was a *bully* boat.—*Mark Twain: Roughing it.*

"Now," said he, "Slick, my *bully*, I think I see a smart chance of doin' a considerable stroke of business to Nova Scotia, in the smugglin' line.—*Sam Slick.*

Bully for you, for me, is a commendatory phrase.

That's *bully*, plenty *bully* for me. Just you gimme the hundred dollars.—*Mark Twain: Tom Sawyer.*

This word has two distinct meanings: (1.) A braggart, or a man who terrifies and threatens. (2.) The older form, still common, applied to any person or thing which is pre-eminently excellent, *e.g.*, a *bully* horse, "that's *bully*." The *Bully* Bottom of Shakspeare implies a compliment. In Dutch slang *bol* has the same meaning, a head, a leader; as one might say, the *bully* of the crowd. Also an intelligent person. "Boll, 'een man met eenen goeden kop. Bol van de kit, man, of meester van het huis," *i.e.*, "A man with a good head, the master of a house." The word came into Dutch as it did into German slang, from the German-Hebrew, *bal* meaning literally man, but always used to indicate a master, director, or superior.

(Common), a *bully*, a stone or lump of lead tied in the end of a handkerchief (New York Slang Dictionary).

(Football), a scrimmage.

"Change!" was called, and after the first *bully* the ball was rushed down the ground to the chalk line of good calx, where a *bully* was formed, after which it was walked into calx and five shies obtained before time was called.—*Sporting Life.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Bully-beef (army), tinned meat; supposed to be made of old bull. The "iron ration," as it is often called, either from its toughness, or the cases of tin or other metal in which it is preserved. (Nautical), boiled beef.

Bully-boss (American), the landlord of a sporting crib, tavern, or brothel. Derived in all probability from *bully* and *boss*, but also agreeing remarkably, though by chance, with the *baal habos*, or "master of the house" of the Jews, which is commoner as *bal bos;* hence the Dutch thieves' slang, *balleboos* (*bāās*), head man of any kind. This is a very curious instance of words of similar forms derived from radically different sources.

Bully-buck (old slang), a man retained by the keepers of brothels, being paid by them to assist in enforcing exorbitant demands on those frequenting such places. Sometimes it was pretended that they were the husbands of some of the inmates, in order by threats of exposure to extort money from simpletons supposed to have been discovered *in flagrante delicto.*

Bully-cock (old slang), a man who, for the purposes of robbery and theft, fomented a quarrel between people, to cloak his nefarious designs.

Bullyrag (American and English), to abuse, revile, or scold vehemently.

The C. C. Well, he's blowing her up; "Look 'ere, Matilda," he sez, "I'm 'anged if they 'aven't bin and let the Throne-room fire out again!" And she sez, "It's no use *bullyraggin'* me, Billiam; speak to the Lord 'Igh Chamberlain about it—it's 'is business."—*Punch.*

From the Dutch *bulder-ar*, a blusterer; *bulderaren*, to rage, to bluster, to roar; *bulderarig*, blustering, and *raak*, hitting.

Bully-rook or *rock*, a braggart, occurs in Shakspeare, where it is certainly of Dutch origin, *e.g.*, *buller-brook*, a boisterous fellow. *Bulbra*, Swedish, to make a noise.

Bully-trap, a trap for bullies and blackguards; applied to a man of mild and gentlemanly appearance and demeanour, who, if attacked by a bully, shows unexpected spirit, courage, and determination, and proves more than a match for his assailant.

Bum (public schools), a birching; termed also a belting. (Army), "cherry bums," the hussars, the allusion being obvious. The French chasseurs go by the nickname of *culs rouges.*

(Obsolete), *bum* or "bummy," a contraction of bum bailiff. Thus called because he follows the man he has to serve with process.

Here lies John Trull, by trade a *bum;*
When he died
The Devil cried,
"Come, John, come."

To *bum*, to arrest a debtor.

The word, according to Blackstone, is a corruption of "bound"

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

bailiff; but this has been denied, as *bum bailiffs* are no more "bound" than other officers of the law to do justice. Todd quotes passages to prove that it arose from the pursuer catching hold of a man by the tail or hinder part of his garment.

Bumble (common), a beadle, from Dickens' character in "Oliver Twist."

Bumble-crew (journalistic), corporation.

Then spake the chairman to the ratepayers:—

> The shindy of to-day exposes all
> The apish antics of a *bumble crew*,
> The worst this town containeth.
> —*Punch.*

Bumbo (old), brandy, water, and sugar; also a negro term for the private parts of a woman.

Bum-brusher, an opprobrious name for a schoolmaster.

Dionysius was forced to turn *bum-brusher* in my own defence, a condition which best suited with a man that delighted in tyranny and blood.—*T. Brown: Works.*

Derived from the too common practice of pedagogues who flog boys with or without reason. The historical *bum-brushers* date from the days of James I. of England and VI. of Scotland—whose tutor, Buchanan, had no greater respect for his royal person than for that of other boys, except on the infrequent occasions when he flogged him vicariously—and from Drs. Busby, Keate, and Arnold in more modern times. In the Glossary to the "Life and Adventures of Bampfylde Moore Carew" it is said that the word "flaybottom" is bestowed upon a flogging pedagogue. It has been suggested that the word is a pun, and a corruption of *phlebotomus*, letting blood, but the word itself gives evidence of its more humble origin.

Bum-charter (thieves), hot bread and water.

Bum-charter is a name given to bread steeped in hot water by the first unfortunate inhabitants of the English Bastile, where this miserable fare was their daily breakfast, each man receiving with his scanty portion of bread a quart of boiled water from the cook's coppers.—*Vaux's Memoirs.*

Bumchik (provincial), inferior beer for harvest labourers.

Bum-curtain (University), short or ragged academical gown.

Bumf (schoolboys), paper; an abbreviation of "bum-fodder." A *bumf*-hunt is a paper-chase.

Bum-fidget (old), a restless, uneasy person who cannot sit still.

Bumkin, or **bumpkin**, a stupid lout, or rustic. From Old Dutch *boomken*, a tree or log. Since the English term also signified a thick piece of wood, it was readily applied to a blockhead. In French, *bûche*, a log, has also the signification of blockhead.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Bummarees, unrecognised hangers-on at Billingsgate Fish Market, who act as middlemen between the wholesale and retail dealers, and who make a profit out of both parties. The word is usually derived from the French *bonne marée*, the good tide or product of the sea.

The *bummaree* is the jobber or speculator on a fish exchange.—*Henry Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

Bummer (turf), a heavy loss. (American), a slow, lazy fellow; in the French argot, *chie-debout*, a loafer.

The auctioneer . . . never got a bid—at least never any but the eighteen dollar one he hired a notoriously substanceless *bummer* to make.—*Mark Twain: Roughing It.*

San Francisco is the elysium of *bummers*. Nowhere can a worthless fellow, too lazy to work, too cowardly to steal, get on so well.—*Scribner's Monthly.*

(American), one who sponges upon his acquaintances.

In California, men who profess to be journalists, and so obtain free drinks, are called literary *bummers*.—*Hotten's Dictionary.*

Bummer is of Pennsylvania origin, from the German word *bummler*, meaning the same. During the war the term was applied to the camp-followers or semi-deserters who followed the Federal army. These irregular heroes, who sometimes rendered good service by fighting desperately, are commemorated as indomitable marauders in the "Breitmann Ballads."

Dey spurred on, dey hurried on, gallopin shtrait,
Boot for Breitmann help coomed yoost a liddle too late,
For ash de Lawine goes smash mit a bound,
So on to de *bummers* de repels coom doun.
Heinrich von Schinkenstein's tead in de road,
Ulrich aus Gailingen's deadt ash a toad,
Und Sepperl—Tyroler—shpoke nefer a wordt
But yoost "Mutter Gottes!"—and died in de ford.

Bump, making a (boating, university), catching the boat in front and knocking against it, the boats being arranged two lengths apart in the race in their previous order of merit.

The chances of St. Ambrose's making a *bump* the first night were weighed.—*Macmillan's Magazine.*

Bumper (theatrical), a very full house at a popular performance. The word *bumper*, for a full glass of liquor, from which the theatrical term is derived, was in the early days supposed to be derived from toasts drunk to the health of the Pope, the "bon-père" of all true Catholic Christians. This explanation is no longer generally accepted, since the word is rightly regarded as a corruption of bombard, a drinking vessel, but originally signifying a cannon.

This derivation is borne out by the circumstance that the French call *canon* a glass of wine drunk at a wine-shop.

Bum perisher, or **shaver**, a short-tailed coat, termed *rase-cul* in French slang.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Bumping races (university). In the eight-oared races at the universities the competing boats start one behind the other at a given distance. When a boat *bumps* (*i.e.*, touches any part of) the boat in front, it takes the other's place in the next race. The races are always rowed in two divisions, about twelve to fifteen in each, and the head boat in the lower division is the last boat in the first division, and is called the sandwich boat. The first boat in the first division is called the Head of the River.

Bump supper (university), explained by quotation.

A *bump supper*, that is, a supper to commemorate the fact of the boat of one college having, in the annual races, "bumped" or touched the boat of another college immediately in front.—*Cuthbert Bede: Adventures of Mr. Verdant Green.*

Bumptious (common), apt to take offence, quarrelsome without adequate provocation. Evidently from "bump," which Skeat derived from "boom," to make a hollow sound. Dutch, *bommen*, one who roars or resounds at once, to swell up or bounce.

I heard that Mr. Sharp's wig didn't fit him, and that he needn't be so "bounceable"—somebody else said *bumptious*—about it, because his own red hair was very plainly to be seen behind.—*Charles Dickens: David Copperfield.*

Bumsquabbled (American), crestfallen.

The judge said . . . he had got too much already, cut him off the other two-thirds, and made him pay all costs. If he didn't look *bumsquabbled* it's a pity.—*Sam Slick: The Clockmaker.*

Bumsucker (society), a term in common use among men in society for a toady. One who is a hanger-on and flatterer of great men, and who will do their dirty work for them. In French, *lèche-cul.*

Bum-trap (old), bailiff.

The noble *bum-trap*, blind and deaf to every circumstance of distress, greatly rises above all the motives to humanity, and into the hands of the jailor resolves to deliver his miserable prey.—*Fielding: Tom Jones.*

Bun (American), a fellow who cannot be shaken off. (Common), to have the *bun*, to get the better of, to surpass.

O Lord! to think I deemed myself most fly.
This infamie most surely has the *bun!*
—*The Sporting Times.*

Bunce (trade), commission from tradesmen and others, blackmail, sums of money, of which both the employer and employed are defrauded by the middle man, through whose hands the money passes at some time or other prior to reaching its destination. In large theatres there are frequently four or five hundred persons employed in various departments, and the head of each department holds his own treasury.

(Turf), profit, interest on money.

(Popular), money.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

For though I am neither a fool nor a dunce,
Whatever I prig other folks get the *bunce.*
—*T. Browne: Unlucky Individuals.*

The boys *will* try it on for their *bunts.*
—*L. L. and L. P.*

According to Hotten from *bon* or *bonus*, probably the latter.

Buncer (trade), one who *bunces* or exacts *bunce* (which see).

Bunch (common), a blow. (American), to *bunch*, to gather up, purse up.

The speaker *bunched* his thick lips together like the stem-end of a tomato.—*Mark Twain: The Gilded Age.*

Bunch of fives (popular), the fist.

M'Auliffe does not seem to appreciate the honour of standing up to Carney again. He says he won't be ready for three months. One taste of the Birmingham boy's quality seems to have been quite sufficient for the American lightweight champion. It is extremely improbable that M'Auliffe will ever again come within reach of Carney's *bunch of fives.*—*Sporting Life.*

Bunco. *Vide* BUNKO.

Buncombe or bunkum (American), talking big, affecting enthusiasm, but always with an underhand purpose.

The *bunkum* bestowed at Threadneedle Street Board.—*Punch.*

Another American importation is *bunkum*, a word generally used to signify empty, frothy declamation. It is said to be derived from the action of a speaker who, persisting in talking to an empty house, said he was speaking to *Buncombe*, the name of the place in North Carolina which he represented.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

Sometimes used, especially in England, to denote mere magniloquence. Mr. Hotten has made the discovery that "it arose from a speech made by a North Carolina senator named Buncombe." The truth is that these are two words, of the same sound but of entirely different origin, and with different meanings. One originated, it is said, as follows (*vide* Bartlett): A member of the House of Representatives, when making a windy speech about nothing then before the House, being asked why he did so, replied that he was speaking to or for *Buncombe.* But long before this story arose, it was usual in New England to express great approbation or admiration of anything by calling it *bunkum*, and this was derived from the Canadian French, "Le buncum sa" ("il est bon comme ça"), "it is good as it is." There was a negro song fifty or sixty years ago with this refrain:—"Bomsell ge mary, lebrunem sa." This is presumed to be negro Canuck-French for "Mam'selle je marie, elle est bonne comme ça." *Vide* BUNKER.

Buncomise, to (journalistic), to talk twaddle.

Experience has taught me the inutility of interviewing. You set a man at once at weighing his words, and he either gammons you intentionally, *buncomises*, or is reticent, so as to be of no service.—*A. Forbes: My Experiences of the War between France and Germany.*

Bund (Anglo-Indian), an artificial bank or wharf.

"This term is also naturalised in the Anglo-Chinese ports. It is there applied to the embanked quay above the shore of the settlements" (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

Bunder (Anglo-Indian). Persian *bundar*, a seaport landing-place, harbour, or custom-house.

Bundling (old), a custom of unmarried people of different sexes, or lovers, sleeping together, but with clothes on, or under such conditions that coition is supposed not to take place. It has been described by Wright as Welsh, by Bartlett as American, but it is to be found anywhere or everywhere in the world among the commoner sort of people (and occasionally among the other class), when opportunity presents itself. Mr. Bartlett thinks it is not now practised in the United States. He evidently does not know the Pennsylvanian Dutch or New England, where the custom still prevails. Washington Irving acted rather unfairly when he described *bundling* as something which the Dutch learned from the Yankees, since it was in full bloom in Holland at the time of which he wrote, and is thus described by Sewel (1797):

"*Queeston* is an odd way of wooing usual in some sea towns or Isles of Holland, after this manner. When the wench is gone to bed, the fellow enters the room and lays himself down in his clothes upon the blankets, next unto her, with one window of the room open, and thus he talks with her, very innocently—as it is reported."

It is said of a damsel in Connecticut, who expected her lover to come and *bundle* with her, that her mother bade her put both her legs into a pillow-case, and tie it round her waist. The next morning she asked her if she had kept her "limbs" in the bag, to which Miss Innocence replied, "Ma, dear, I only took *one* out."

Bung (common), a brewer or a landlord of a beerhouse.

A Peerage and a Beerage.—Within the last few years several *bungs* have been made Peers. There is no particular objection to this, for brewing is just as likely to produce an individual who is so thoroughly impregnated with legislative wisdom that he will propagate legislators, as shooting pheasants, or any of the other occupations to which those who become Peers generally devote themselves, and a beerage is as glorious an institution as a Peerage. The only difficulty seems to me to be this: The title becomes a sort of Government guarantee that the beer of its possessor is good, and, therefore, any one whose beer is up to par ought to have a right to claim a Peerage, for otherwise competition will not be carried on between the *bungs* under fair conditions.—*Truth.*

A pickpocket, sharper, a purse. This very old English cant word is still in use among American thieves in the phrase "to go *bung*," which is the same as "to go bang," derived from the pop-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

ping of a cork, or the *bung* of a barrel; lost, gone.

In this case the title of the "Queen's Fund" has been sufficient to damn what otherwise, beyond doubt, would have been a widely beneficial charity. It cannot be thought, however, that the Queen herself will be consumed with sorrow even if she does happen to hear that this abortion has "gone *bung*."—*Australian Journal.*

(Pugilistic) to give, pass, hand over; "*bung* over the rag," hand over the note. (Popular), in a public-house game called "cod 'em," when one of the opposite party suspects the *piece* to be in any particular hand, he places his own over it and exclaims "*bung* it here," *i.e.*, give it up.

Bunged peeper (common), an eye closed by a blow.

There is, I think, no natural connection between the bung of a barrel and an eye which has been closed by a blow. But when we reflect on the constant mingling of gypsies with prize-fighters, it is almost evident that *bongo* may have been the origin of it. A *bongo yakko* (or *yak*), means a distorted, crooked, or in fact *a bunged eye*. It also means lame, crooked, or sinister.—*The English Gypsies and their Language.*

To bung is good English for to close up.

Bung-juice (thieves), porter or beer (New York Slang Dictionary).

Bunk (American), a wooden case or bench "which serves for a seat by day and a bed by night" (Bartlett). In America denotes generally a rough bed or place for sleeping. Dutch, "slaap *bünk*," a settle-bed, or press-bed. American, "to *bunk*."

. . . And so pass over the rest of his voyage by saying that he was confined to his *bunk*, and saw no more of it.—*H. Kingsley: Ravenshoe.*

Bunker (popular), beer. (American), large, fine, remarkable. East of England, *bonker*. This word suggests a possible origin of Buncombe.

Bunko, bunco (American), from the Italian *banco*, a bench or bank. A game at cards, like three-card monte, and is usually simply a swindle. It is described by Inspector Byrnes, Chief of Detectives in New York, substantially as follows. It is apparently so simple and honest that the shrewdest men are readily induced to try it, and are thus fleeced. There are forty-three spaces upon a *bunko* "lay out," forty-two are numbered, and thirteen contain stars also (no prizes), one is blank, and the remaining twenty-nine represent prizes ranging from two to five thousand dollars. The game can be played with dice or cards. The latter are numbered with a series of small numbers ranging from one to six, eight of which are drawn and counted, and the total represents the number of the prize drawn. Should the victim draw a star number he is allowed the privilege of drawing again by putting up a small amount of money. He is generally allowed to win at first, and later

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

on the game owes him from $1000 to $5000 (*i.e.*, from £200 to £1000). This is when he draws the conditional prize, No. 27. The conditions are that he must put up $500 (£100), or as much as the dealer thinks he will stand. This is explained to him as necessary to save what he has already won, and to entitle him to another drawing. To inveigle men to play *bunko*, the most extraordinary pains are taken, and the *bunko*-steerers or "touts," who seek for victims, are selected from the most gentlemanly-looking, well-educated persons that can be found. There are innumerable instances of lawyers and others, who knew the world well, and who were perfectly on their guard as to *bunko*, being taken in by it, and half ruined. Its extraordinary vogue in the United States justifies this detailed description of it, as *præmonitus, præmunitus*. The writer is well acquainted with an English gentleman who, while travelling in the United States, was "bunkoed" out of several thousand dollars.

Bunkum. See BUNCOMBE.

Bunny grub (Cheltenham College), green vegetables, called "grass" at the Royal Military Academy.

Bunon (Anglo-Indian), applied to any humbug, "anything fictitious or factitious," a cram, a shave, a sham (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

You will see within a week if this is anything more than a *bunon*.—*Oakfield*, ii. 58.

Bun-struggle or worry (army), a tea meeting; an entertainment to which benevolent souls occasionally invite the soldiers in a garrison, but which has generally smaller attractions for them than the canteen or public-house.

Bunt (common), an apron, properly sail canvas; to *bunt*, to jostle.

Bunter (common), a street-walking thief, a prostitute.

Bunts. See BUNCE.

Burick (Australian convicts' slang), a whore. Introduced into Australia by the convicts transported thither.

Burick is a prostitute, or common woman.—*Vaux's Memoirs*.

Burking (army), dyeing the moustache and whiskers. It was at one time the custom for the whole of the men in smart cavalry regiments to dye their moustaches, &c., black, to *burke* or suppress their natural colour. This was for the sake of uniformity. Fashion in hair has always been a feature in military life. As in the past each corps prided itself on its own peculiar arrangement of pigtail and powder, so now there are regiments in which public opinion demands a hard and fast rule about hair. Few will tolerate whiskers; Piccadilly weepers, Dundrearies, as they were once

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

called, are universally despised; and where the beard is permitted to be worn, as in India, its dimensions and trimming are often the subject of precise regulations. *Burking* meant formerly to stifle, from Burke, who was hung in 1829 for murder by suffocation of persons whose bodies he sold to surgeons for dissecting.

Burn (thieves), cheat; *burners*, swindlers with dice and cards; *burnt*, infected with venereal disease (New York Slang Dictionary).

Burner (old slang), an acute form of a certain stage of a contagious disease.

Burr, to (Marlborough College), to fight.

Burra-beebee (Anglo-Indian), a great lady, a grande dame, a lady-swell. (Gypsy), *bāro beebee.*

This is a kind of slang word applied in Anglo-Indian society to the lady who claims precedence at a party.—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

The ladies carry their *burra bibi-ship* into the steamers when they go to England. My friend endeavoured in vain to persuade them that whatever their social importance in the City of Palaces, they would be but small folk in London.—*Viscountess Falkland: Chow-Chow.*

Burra khana (Anglo-Indian), a grand feast, a big dinner. In English gypsy, *bāro habben*, from the same Indian roots.

Burra sahib (Anglo-Indian), the chief, or head, or master. A great man.

Burst (sporting), lively pace, smart race, spurt.

During "a good *burst*" one of the hunt lost both "sight and sound" of the pack, and riding along almost disconsolate overtook a "yokel," and at once asked him if he had seen the "hare and hounds."

"Ees, zir, I seed a dog chasing a hare."

"Which way were they going?"

"Ah, zir, I can't tell 'ee that; all I could see was the dog was having the best of it."—*Sporting Times.*

Burying (old cant), "*burying* a wife" signifies the feast given by an apprentice on the completion of his term of apprenticeship, and becoming a free man, to set up in business for himself. (Common), "*burying* a moll," forsaking a wife or mistress.

Bus (common), abbreviation of omnibus.

An experiment was recently made of a female omnibus conductor on the new line between Piccadilly Circus and King's Cross. She only lasted a day. Most probably she met with an offer of marriage and closed her connection with one *bus* to get another as legitimate.—*London Court Journal.*

(Theatrical), contraction of "business." Pronounced *biz.* The dramatic action of a play is described in all written parts as *bus.* The dumb show described in Hamlet is all *biz. Biz* is also applied to the commercial affairs of the theatre. as "good *biz*" or "bad *biz.*" (Anglo-Indian), *bus!* "Enough!" "Hold hard!" "Stop there!" "That will do!" "Hold your horses!"

Bushed (up country Australian), lost in the bush or uncleared

country primarily, and hence bewildered.

Desmard was on these occasions always accompanied by one of the boys, for John feared that he might get *bushed;* but he himself and the other boy went separately. —*A. C. Grant: Bush Life in Queensland.*

(Common), "*bushed* on," much pleased. "I am awfully *bushed* on," that takes my fancy.

(Old slang), applied to a poor man without money. "He's completely *bushed*," *i.e.*, destitute.

Bushel, to (American), to repair garments. German *büszen*, to mend, hence "busheler," a tailor's assistant, whose business it is to repair garments (Bartlett).

Bushel-bubby (old slang), a large and full-breasted woman.

Bushwhackers (West Indian), men who squat alive in the "bush," leading an idle, useless existence.

(American), during the Civil War guerillas or irregulars were called "bushwhackers." To "bushwhack" a boat is to draw it along by seizing the bushes on the banks.

Bushy park (rhyming slang), a lark. "A man who is poor is said to be 'in *bushy park*,' or 'in the park'"(Vaux's Memoirs).

Business (theatrical), the movements of the actors, their look and tone.

The success of one of these pieces depends not upon verbal joking, good or bad, but upon *business.—Saturday Review.*

Playing well or ill, according to the mood in which she may happen to be, an actress of Madame Bernhardt's *trempe* naturally varies her *business.—Times.*

(Singers), singing professionally.

She began her *business* in a deep sweet voice.—*Thackeray: History of Pendennis.*

(American), "the *business*-end," the end of any object which is put to practical use. The *business*-end of a mule is his heels.

If, on an occasion of this nature, one stationed himself behind the door, and, as a sort of preliminary warning to the others, greeted the first interloper with the *business*-end of a boot-jack, he would be morally certain of a lively one-sided misunderstanding that might end disastrously to himself. —*J. Stevens: Around the World on a Bicycle.*

Busk, busking (trade), explained by quotation.

They obtain a livelihood by *busking*, as it is termed, or, in other words, by offering these goods for sale only at the bars or in the tap-rooms and parlours of taverns.—*H. Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

From a furniture carter of this description I received some most shocking details of having to *busk* it, as this talking about goods for sale is called by those in the trade.—*H. Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

(Low actors), getting one's living on the road, by recitations in tap-rooms, &c.; probably from *buskin.*

Busking is going into public-houses and playing and singing and dancing.—*H. Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

(Tramps), singing.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Buskers (popular), men who go about performing, singing, or playing in a low way in the streets or in public-houses.

Then Mary Jones happened to meet
A tumbler whose real name was simply John Brown,
While slanging one day in the street.
His form so attractive, his figure so neat,
So unlike common *buskers* was he,
So pleasing his tricks she enchanted became,
And soon forgot all about me.
—*J. Lloyd: The Flying Lady.*

Buss, to (American), to punch, probably from "burst." "I'll *buss* your head" is a common threat.

Bust (thieves), a burglary.

"Fatty Bill, from City Road, rem. for a *bust* ex. 2 years," means that William . . . has been compelled to leave his congenial haunts in the City Road as he is remanded for a burglary, and anticipates two years' hard labour.—*Rev. J. W. Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

(Royal Military Academy), to go on the *bust*, to go to town for amusement.

(American), a burst, a frolic, a debauch, a spree. The reference in the following paragraph is to an American Minister to Mexico, who was said to have indulged in a *bust* of unwonted magnitude.

An article has appeared recently upon "*Busts* of the Vice-Presidents." Something upon the *busts* of Foreign Ministers would possess more of current interest.—*Omaha Herald.*

(Thieves), to *bust*, to inform, to "split;" to commit a burglary.

(American), to destroy.

They was by this time jined by a large crowd of other Southern patrits, who comenst hollerin, "Hang the bald-headed aberlitionist, and *bust* up his immoral exhibition!"—*Artemus Ward.*

Buster (popular), a small new loaf, termed also "burster;" a "penny-worth of bees-wax and a penny *buster*," *i.e.*, bread and cheese.

I can't get at it, I can't get at it,
I like the faggots tho' they smell.
But now the penny 's down the well,
I can't get at it, I can't get at it.
I thought I'd have a *buster* but it's all no go! —*Song.*

(American), anything large in size, a drinking bout, a man of great strength.

He tackled some of their regular *busters* and they throwed him.—*Mark Twain: Dry Diggings.*

(Australian), southerly *buster*, southerly wind of great violence.

(Thieves), a burglar.

(Common), anything large, of extra size; a spurt.

At frequent intervals during the day, the cattle, animated by a sudden impulse, broke back and made a determined charge through the drivers, with their heads turned homewards. Whenever this took place, the overseer, after turning them round, gave the mob a *buster* at a severe pace during the next half-hour to take the wind out of them.—*Nichols: Wild Life and Adventure in the Australian Bush.*

Wot odds arter all? We're jest dittos: I'm not bad at bottom, sez you.
Well, thank ye for nothink, my joker. As long as I've bullion to blue,
I mean to romp round a rare *buster*, lark, lap, take the pick of the fun,
And, bottom or top, good or bad, keep my heye on one mark—Number One!
—*Punch.*

Bustle, a dress-improver, the protuberance behind on a woman's

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

dress. Before 1855 and 1856 ladies had begun to wear crinoline and skeleton skirts. Then came the *bustle*, an artificial appendage intended to produce the impression that the wearer had a full *glute* × *maximus* or *séant*. Of late it has assumed enormous dimensions, far surpassing anything characteristic of the most fully developed Hottentot Venus.

"Nothing has outstripped the *bustle* in its gigantic strife for prodigious excellence. It is remarkable that this form of fashion, which has never been literally to the front, has still left all other rivals behind. . . . We can recall when this startlingly reproductive fruit received the distinct impetus which has borne it through successive stages to the present extraordinary condition of development." (The writer here displays great knowledge in proving that it was the use of *bustles* during the American war, as places for concealing valuables, which led to their increase in the United States.) "At this crisis the *bustle* played a historic part. It became a safe deposit vault for imperilled jewellery and plate.

"When the *bustle* shall have been developed to its probable limit, the lady who wears one will certainly escape recognition, if not observation. Our attention was lately called to a *bustle* of the pneumatic species. This is a graft of the bulb variety, and is filled with atmospheric oxygen, and it was propelling a young lady before it, much as a perambulator is advanced by a nurse. This *bustle* was the admiration that day of the entire city of Augusta. She wore a terra-cotta chimney-pot hat, and what with the pneumatic *bustle*, the beautiful creature closely resembled a rural summer cottage with a stove-flue fixed at one end."—*History of the Bustle : Greensboro* (*Ga.*) *Home Journal.*

(Popular), money.

To *bustle*, to tie up into bundles or to make bunches.

Bustled (common), confused, puzzled.

Busy-sack (popular), a carpet-bag.

Butcha (Anglo-Indian), the young of any animal.

Butcher, the (American), a boy who is allowed to pass through the line of "cars" or carriages on a railway for the purpose of selling a great variety of articles. He is generally considered, to judge by the tenor of the remarks and anecdotes in the newspapers, as an intolerable annoyance. He leaves with every passenger, *nolens volens*, newspapers, books, sweets, fruit, toys, &c., all of which must be carefully guarded, or returned if not purchased, under the penalty of incurring that unlimited "sass" in which youths of his class are generally so proficient. The following incident, from the *Detroit Free Press*, gives a faithful picture of the temptations offered by the *butcher* :—

On a Michigan central train the other day as the *butcher* came into the car with a basket of oranges, an old man, whose wife sat beside him, was very anxious to buy half-a-dozen, but she waved the boy on with, "He can't have em. He never eats one without the juice runs down on his shirt bosom."

(Common), the king at cards, called *un bœuf* in French slang.

(Prison), the *butcher* is a nickname for the doctor. Otherwise termed "sawbones," "croaker."

Butcher's mourning (popular), a white hat with a mourning band.

Butler-English (Anglo-Indian), a kind of pidgin-English spoken in the Madras Presidency.

Butteker, a shop, from the Italian *bottega*. A curious variation of this word is "butter-ken," Gypsy, *bŭtteka* or *boodika*.

Butter, to (common), to praise a person too flagrantly; "to pass the *butter* boat," is to indulge at public dinners in laudatory toasts of the prominent or distinguished persons who are present. The phrase has its counterpart in the Scottish proverb, "Claw me and I'll claw you." From *clire*, to praise, and signifying "Praise me and I'll praise you." The English proverb, "Fine words *butter* no parsnips," took its rise in a kindred idea.

I'll *butter* him, trust me. Nothing comforts a poor beggar like a bit of praise when he is down.—*C. Kingsley: Two Years Ago.*

Butter a bet, to (old slang), to increase it by twice or thrice its first amount.

Butter fingers (cricketers), an epithet applied to a "fielder" who does not hold a ball which he ought to catch.

Butter flap (rhyming slang), a trap, light cart.

Butterfly (nautical), a sailor's name for a river barge.

Buttock (common), a street-walker, a common prostitute.

You jade! I'll ravish you! You *buttock!* I'm a justice of the peace, sirrah! —*Soldier's Fortune*, 1681.

The bands and the *buttocks* that lived there around,
Came flocking hither.
—*Poor Robin*, 1694.

Wi' ruefu' face an' signs o' grace,
I paid the *buttock* hire;
The night was dark, and through the park
I couldna but convoy her.
—*Robert Burns: On the Cuttie Stool.*

Buttock and file (old cant), a shop lifter.

The same capacity which qualifies a mill-ben, a bridle-cull, or a *buttock and file* to arrive at any degree of eminence in his profession would likewise raise a man in what the world esteems a more honourable calling.—*Fielding: Jonathan Wild.*

Buttock and tongue (old slang), a scolding, shrewish wife.

Buttock-ball (old slang), cohabitation.

Buttock-broker (old slang), a procuress, and in society a match-making woman.

Buttocking-shop (common), a brothel. The corresponding expression in the French slang is *magasin de fesses.*

Button (old cant), a shilling, now a bad one. (Streets), a decoy sham purchaser.

The Cheap Johns have a man or a boy to look after the horse . . . and sometimes at a fair to hawk or act as a *button* (decoy) to purchase the first lot of goods put up.—*H. Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

Button-buster (theatrical), a really humorous low comedian, one who excites the risible faculties so strongly that the auditors

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

laugh until they burst their buttons.

Buttoner (card-sharpers), a confederate who entices "pigeons" into playing.

Button on (printers), see PAN ON and CHOPPER ON. An expression frequently used by printers, equivalent to "making buttons," "fit of the blues," or "down in the dumps."

Button pound (provincial), money, literally money that can be pocketed.

Buttons (common), a page.

Our present girl is an awful slowcoach; but we hope some day to sport *buttons*.—*E. B. Ramsay: Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character.*

Button up, to (Stock Exchange, American). When in a falling market a broker has made an unprofitable purchase, and keeps the matter secret, he is said to *button up*.

Butty (Cheap Jacks), a partner. (Provincial), a companion or partner in a piece of contract work.

A *butty* collier is one who contracts with the mine owner to raise the coal at so much per ton, employing other men to do the actual work. The word is from the gipsy dialect. A "booty pal" is a fellow-workman, literally a "work brother." In the mouths of navvies or rough workmen "pal" would soon be dropped, and *butty* would represent the original phrase.—*Eliezer Edwards: Words, Facts, and Phrases.*

(Army), comrade, chum. (Popular), a policeman's assistant.

Buy a prop (Stock Exchange), a recommendation signifying that the market is flat and there is nobody to support it.

Buy his time, to (American). Before the war slaves often bought themselves free by instalments, paying down so much money at a stated time. When, for instance, a slave had thus paid half the money, half of his time would be his own. It happened thus that a man of colour who was half redeemed fell into a flood and narrowly escaped drowning. On being asked what his thoughts were on finding himself so near death, he replied that he couldn't help thinking what a fool a man was to risk money "in such unsarten property as niggers." Many negroes also hired their own time, paying so much per day or week for it, trusting to earn more.

Buz or **buzz, to** (common), to share equally what remains in a bottle, or to pour out the last drops from a decanter.

Get some more port, whilst I *buzz* this bottle here.—*Thackeray: Vanity Fair.*

(American, according to Bartlett, but quite as much English), to pick pockets while engaging a victim in conversation, or while a confederate does so, *i.e.*, while "buzzing" to him.

Scores of other visitors know to their loss how they were *buzzed*. The Plunger had his note-case, containing over £200 in notes, extracted from his fob.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Buz in thieves' slang was originally to whisper; it is now common in the sense of talking confidentially or earnestly to anybody.

"I saw you talking to Blank on the corner over there."

"Yes."

Buzzing you to vote for him?"

"Yes."

"But you can't do it."

"No."

"And you told him so?"

"Well, not right away."

"What were you waiting for?"

"Why, I didn't tell him so until I had asked for the loan of $5, and he said he didn't have it."—*Detroit Free Press.*

(Popular), to talk, to make a speech.

Old bottle-blue *buzzed* for a bit,
And a sniffy young Wiscount in barnacles,
landed wot 'e thought a' it.—*Punch.*

Buz-bloke (thieves), a pickpocket.

Buz-cove (Australian convicts' slang), most likely taken out to Australia by the convicts transported thither.

Vaux, in his "Memoirs of Convict Life in Australia," says: "*Buz-cove* or 'buz-gloak,' a pickpocket; a person who is clever at this practice is said to be a 'good buz.'"

Buz-man (thieves), a thief; an informer.

Buznapper (old slang), a constable, one who "knaps" or takes "buzzers" or pickpockets. Also a young pickpocket.

Buznapper's academy, a school in which young thieves were trained. Figures were dressed up and experienced tutors stood in various difficult attitudes for the boys to practise upon. When clever enough they were sent on the streets. Dickens gives full particulars of this old style of business in "Oliver Twist" (Hotten).

Buznapper's kinchin (old cant), a watchman.

Buzzard (American), an oppressive, arrogant person, jealous of rivalry, and vindictive. The Wiggins alluded to in the following paragraph is a celebrated though not very successful American weather-prophet.

Wiggins pronounces Professor Proctor "a *buzzard* among scientists, devouring every young man whom he finds making any pretensions." If he can succeed in eliminating the pretentious Wiggins, the country will rise up as one man and call him blessed.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Buzzard dollar (American), so called from the eagle on it, which captious critics think looks like a turkey-*buzzard.*

The waiters all expect something from you. They are very cunning, and always bring plenty of small change, so that if one is inclined to give he can find no excuse. They will take anything you give them, from a nickel up to a *buzzard dollar*, and look happy.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Buzzer (thieves), a pickpocket.

Buzz-gloak (old), a pickpocket.

He who surreptitiously accumulates bustle is, in fact, nothing better than a *buzz-gloak.*—*Lord Lytton: Paul Clifford.*

By-chop (old), an illegitimate child.

By George! a vulgar ejaculation.

By golly! a mild oath.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

By gum! (American), a mild oath.

> One night she was gone, *by gum!*
> But as soon as ever I missed her,
> From the king, for a glass of rum,
> I bought her younger sister.
> —*The Ballad of William Duff.*

By Jingo! (common), an exclamation denoting surprise, indignation, defiance. *Vide* JINGO.

By the wind (nautical), hard up, in pecuniary need.

C

CAB (common), a brothel. The term arises from the fact that four-wheeled cabs are sometimes used for certain purposes.

The French argot describes a four-wheeled cab as *bordel ambulant.*

(University), explained by quotation.

> Those who can't afford a coach, get a *cab,* alias a crib, alias a translation.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

(Tinker), a cabbage.

Cabbage (tailors and dressmakers). This is given as a cant word for private theft by dictionaries of the beginning of the nineteenth century, but it is used now in a slangy sense only in reference to the purloining by tailors of pieces of cloth.

> Did any one even yet hear of a working tailor who was proof against misappropriation of his neighbour's goods, or, as he playfully designates it, *cabbage?* Is it not a standard joke in the trade this *cabbage?* Did one ever hear of a tailor being shunned by his fellow-workmen, or avoided by his neighbours, on account of his predilection for *cabbage?* Yet what is it but another word for "theft"?—*J. Greenwood: Seven Curses of London.*

Formerly *carbage.*

> Lupez for the outside of his suite has paide;
> But, for his heart, he cannot have it made;
> The reason is, his credit cannot get
> The inward *carbage* for his cloathes as yet.
> —*Herrick: Hesperides.*

Wright gives the following definition of *cabbage* used as a verb, "to purloin or embezzle, as pieces of cloth, after cutting out a garment; properly and originally to cut off the heads of cabbages, and occasionally also such as are not our own but belong to others." This derivation is borne out by the old French *cabuser,* to deceive, cheat, from *cabus,* a white-headed cabbage.

Cabbage-head (common), a soft-headed person.

Cabbager (common), a tailor. Formerly *cabbage* contractor.

Cabbage-tree mob (obsolete Australian slang), now called "larrikins," not quite equivalent to the London street rough or loafer, because they generally are or might be in prosperous circumstances. Thus called on

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

account of the emblem of their order being the low-crowned cabbage-palm hat.

There are to be found round the doors of the Sydney Theatre, a sort of loafers known as the *cabbage-tree mob*, a class whom, in the spirit of the ancient tyrant, one might excusably wish had but one nose in order to make it a bloody one.—*Lieut.-Col. Munday: Our Antipodes.*

The modern larrikin has exchanged the *cabbage-tree* for a black wideawake felt hat (hence called the "larrikin hat"), which he wears with its brim turned down. The clothes he most affects are "shiny black," with a velvet collar, and his boots have ridiculously high heels.

Cabbagites. See CABBAGE-TREE MOB.

Unaware of the propensities of the *cabbagites*, he was by them furiously assailed for no better reason, apparently, than because, like "Noble Percy," "he wore his beaver up."—*Lieut.-Col. Munday: Our Antipodes.*

Cab-bilking (common), cheating a cabman out of his fare.

Some of the methods of *cab-bilking* are very artful and curious. One is to order a Jehu to set down a fare at a restaurant or tavern having a back entrance in another street, and to await the return of the latter for a few minutes. On this being done, the rider, after partaking of refreshments, decamps by that exit, to the loss and indignation of the driver, who often only learns that the hirer has defrauded him after waiting for a long time beyond that which he has been asked to stay.—*Globe.*

Cabby (general), driver of a cab.

No wonder Lord Ronald Gower is popular among *cabbies*. Last night he presided over the meeting of the Cabdrivers' Association, and in his speech he remarked that "he always gave *cabby* what he called the inevitable extra sixpence, particularly if he found that the driver was kind to his horse."—*Globe.*

Cable-hanger (nautical), a person catching oysters in the river Medway, not free of the fishery (Smyth).

Cab-moll (common), a prostitute in a brothel.

Cabob, kibob, khabaub (Anglo-Indian), used in Anglo-Indian households for any kind of roast meat. Properly it is applicable to small slices of meat on skewers, with slices of onion and green ginger between them, the whole being seasoned with pepper and salt, butter, &c. In a plainer form it is common in Venice, and perhaps in all parts of Italy.

Cabobbled (nautical), confused, puzzled.

Caboodle (American), a New England expression, originally used by coasting sailors. It means the entire party, all the set or clique. It is probably a slang modification of the Spanish word *cabildo*, which means the same thing.

Cackle (circus), the dialogue of a play. Some actors seek to derive this word from cacalogy. It is, however, far more likely to have been derived by the equestrian performers, who introduced and popularised it, from the more homely "cluck, cluck" of the humble barn-door fowl, after the process of laying an egg.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

When manager of Astley's, the great Ducrow, who shared the hatred which his craft has always more or less entertained towards the actor, was wont to apostrophise the performers in his equestrian drama after this fashion: "Come, I say, you mummers" (see MUMMERS), "cut your *cackle*, and come to the 'osses!"

(Roughs), talk.

He was dabs at the *cackle.*—*Punch.*

Cackle-chucker (theatrical), the prompter, whose duty it is to "chuck out" the words, *i.e.*, to prompt the actors when they forget, or don't know the words—a matter of rare occurrence amongst the hierarchy of English actors. As a rule, the prompter is the hardest worked and the worst paid man in the theatre. Notwithstanding his proverbial industry and ability, under no concatenation of circumstances has a prompter ever been known to "give the word" at the precise moment when it is wanted. One of our most famous stage-managers, a well-known tragedian, is wont to affirm with grim humour that he has observed during a prolonged experience that the first qualification for a prompter is "not to know how to prompt."

Cackle merchant (theatrical), the author of a play.

Cackler (popular), talker.

The captain was a good-looking fellow, and a good fellow, too. "He ain't much of a *cackler*," thought Susie, when they had sat together for a little while.—*Ally Sloper's Half Holiday.*

(Thieves), a fowl; "prig of *cackler*," one who steals fowls.

Cackler's ken (thieves), hen roost.

Cackle-tub (common), a pulpit. Very old slang, but still in use.

"Jack, he goes to church," said Hass, lifting her eyebrows dubiously, "I don't rightly know to what shop, and it's too far off, maybe, and I ain't got a prayer-book; but I sorter think if yer'll borrow Lucy's chair to wheel me, I'll go and sit under the *cackle-tub* in Little Bethel next Sunday."—*Savage: London.*

Cackling-chete (old cant), a fowl.

She has a *cackling-chete*, a grunting-*chete*, ruff pecke, cassan and poplarr of yarum.—*T. Harman: Caveat.*

i.e., "She has a fowl, a pig, bacon, cheese, and milk porridge."

Cackling-cove (popular and thieves), an actor.

Cad (common). The word is hardly slang in some of its senses. It has various meanings, such as omnibus conductor.

The spirited proprietor, knowing Mr. Barker's qualifications, appointed him to the vacant office of *cad* on the very first application.—*Sketches by Boz* (*The First Omnibus Cad*).

An 'Arry or street boy; a mean or ill-bred fellow; or one vulgar in feeling, to be met with, like the snob, in every class of society. Among a certain class, tradesmen, merchants, workmen.

Thirty years ago, and even later, the young men of the labouring classes were the *cads*, the snobs, the blackguards.—*Kingsley: Alton Locke.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES INDIA

At public schools and universities the term applies to townsmen. Possibly derived from "cadger," or Irish *cadas*, fustian, rag. More probably from *cadet*, used in a sense of inferiority. "Caddee" is a provincialism for under-servant, and in France, in the provinces, *cadet* is a nickname sometimes given to a poor, half-witted hanger-on, to a young farm-servant, or to an ass. "Un fameux *cadet*" is an expression used by the French in a contemptuous manner, and applied to a puny fellow who puts on airs. It has been suggested that *cad* comes from the Scotch *cadie*, a term formerly applied to the carriers of sedan-chairs. The character and occupation of these men were regarded with much contempt.

Caddy-butcher (popular), explained by quotation.

The calf . . . the veterinary surgeon had advised him to sell it to some *caddy-butcher*, *i.e.*, one who buys horses to sell for horse meat.—*Standard.*

Cade, the (society), the Burlington Arcade. At certain times of the day this covered walk is the lounge of fast men of the town and the better class of the *demi-monde*.

Cadge to, properly to beg; supposed to be derived from *cadge*, a basket carried by beggars, in the same way that to beg is from "bag," originally to carry. Slangily applied to waiters who hang about for a gratuity.

Mr. —— has, further, my congratulations on the excellence of the waiters employed. They are smart, don't *cadge*, and are models of civility.—*Sporting Times.*

(Scholastic), to try and get pupils or hints by sneaking means.

Cadge-cloak (old cant), a beggar.

Cadge-cloak, curtal, or curmudgeon, no Whip-Jack, palliard, patrico . . . nor any other will I suffer. — *Bampfylde Moore Carew.*

Cadger, properly a trickster, a tramp or vagabond who either begs or sells small articles by the way as he tramps from place to place.

The full extent of the society's usefulness, according to vulgar prejudice, is represented by the unfortunate *cadger* pounced on in the act of receiving alms, and carried before a magistrate to account for that enormous iniquity.—*J. Greenwood: Seven Curses of London.*

Slang meaning explained by quotation.

I may here remark that amongst people of my born grade no one is so contemptuously regarded as he who is known as a *cadger*. The meaning they set on the word is not the dictionary meaning. The *cadger* with them is the whining beggar—the cowardly impostor, who, being driven or finding it convenient to subsist on charity, goes about his business with an affectation of profoundest humility, and a consciousness of his own unworthiness; a sneaking, abject wretch, aiming to crop a meal out of the despising and disgust he excites in hi fellow-creatures. — *J. Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins.*

Cadging, properly begging.

I've got my living by casting fortins, and begging, and *cadging*, and such like.—*H. Kingsley: Geoffrey Hamlyn.*

I don't say that they were all beggars—probably not more than a third of them

were—but what one in vain looked for was the "jolly beggar," the oft-quoted and steadfastly believed in personage who scorns work because he can "make" in a day three times the wages of an honest mechanic by the simple process of *cadging.—J. Greenwood: In Strange Company.*

Slangily applied to cabmen when they are off the rank soliciting fares, or to waiters who hang about and fawn for a gratuity.

Cady (popular), a hat, from an old style resembling a barrel. "Cade," provincial English for a barrel or small cask.

Caffre's tightener (South African), bread or food of any kind, as distinguished from drink.

Cag, to (schoolboys), to irritate (Hotten).

Cage (thieves), a prison.

Cagg, to (military), to abstain for a certain time from liquor. Grose, in his "Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue," says, "This is a military term used by private soldiers, signifying a solemn vow or resolution not to get drunk for a certain time, or, as the term is, 'not till their *cagg* is out,' which vow is commonly observed with strictness;" *e.g.*, "I have *cagged* myself for six months," "Excuse me this time and I will *cagg* for a year." This term is also in use in Scotland.

Cagmag (popular), scraps, odds and ends of butcher meat, unpalatable food; properly an old goose.

Cahoot, in (American), to be intimately concerned with any one in an affair. There can be little doubt that it came from either the Dutch *Kajuit* or German *Kajüte*, or perhaps the same in Old Saxon, meaning a cabin, implying living or messing together. French *cahute*, a hovel, renders this more probable.

Cain and Abel (rhyming slang), a table.

Cake (American and provincial English), a man without much sense, or one wanting in ideas; not so much a fool as a mere nothing. A weaker form is expressed by saying, "He's a *cake* only half-baked." This expression is most frequently heard in Philadelphia.

"To take the *cake*," to surpass, excel, to be first in anything. This coincides oddly, though entirely accidentally, with a conjectured meaning of the origin of Pretzel (*q. v.*).

He's always up to doing folks,
He's always on the wake;
He's after profit when he jokes,
On that "he takes the *cake*."
—*Queer Bits.*

Cakey (popular), soft, foolish, or empty-headed; from the provincial English "cake," a foolish fellow.

Cakey-pannum-fencer (street), a street pastry-cook.

Calaboose (American), from the Spanish *calabozo*, the common name for a watch-house or

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

prison, especially in New Orleans.

I went on board de oder day,
To hear wot de boatmen had to say,
Den I let my passion loose,
An' dey jammed me fast in de *calaboose*.
—*Negro Song.*

Calculate, to (American). Although it cannot be denied that many people in New England often use the word *calculate* as a synonym for "guess," to express every form of thought, such as "to esteem, suppose, believe, think, expect, intend," &c., this is far from being universally the case. Calculation sets forth a more deliberate action of the mind, and is more associated with thought. A Yankee will generally *calculate* the chances of anything, when he would not guess them. *Calculate*, which is nothing but the result of rapid conversation, may be heard in England as in America.

Calf (common), an idiotic or stupid person; *calf*-headed, cowardly.

She had a girlish fancy for the good-looking young *calf* who had so signally disgraced himself. — *Hamilton Aïdé: Morals and Mysteries.*

Calf-clingers (popular), explained by quotation.

Knee-breeches were just going out of fashion when I was a little boy, and *calf-clingers* (that is, trousers made to fit the leg as tight as a worsted stocking) were "coming in."—*J. Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins.*

Calf's-head (popular), a white-faced man with a large head.

Calico (common), weak, lean.

In such a place as that your *calico* body had need have a good fire to keep it warm. —*Nathanael Bailey: Colloquies of Erasmus, Translated.*

How a shrewd, down-east Yankee once questioned a simple Dutchman out of his well-fed steed, and left him instead a vile *calico*-mare in exchange.—*Sala: The Seven Sons of Mammon.*

Calico-bally (American), a frequenter of calico-balls. About fifty years ago in Philadelphia it was usual to speak of balls frequented by factory girls as "slewers," and the commoner kind of grisettes as *calico* or dollar balls; hence *calico-bally* has come to signify, when applied to a young gentleman dissipated or fast, one who goes anywhere for amusement.

I once was a cobby and hack young man,
And a little bit *calico-bally;*
A picture-card-out-of-the-pack young man,
And frequently music-hally.
—*Concert Hall Song.*

Calico yard (Australian), a kind of corral. The expression is used by drovers.

California, Californians, money. Term generally applied to gold only (Hotten).

Call (theatrical), big *call*, a warm *recall* before the curtain.

Charley played with all his old animation and grace, and got a *big call.*—*George R. Sims: Ha! Ha!*

To *call* a piece is to have it brought on in rehearsal after a first performance with a view to alterations.

(American), to have the *call*,

to be preferred, have the chance, to be wanted.

Tall girls *have the call* now. They are the fashion this season.—*Detroit Tribune.*

Call-a-go (street patter), to leave off trying to sell anything and to remove to another spot, to desist. Also to give in, yield at any game or business. Probably from the *go* in cribbage (Hotten).

Calle (American thieves' slang), a woman's gown. German Hebrew *kalle*, a girl.

Callee (pidgin-English), curry. "No can chaw-chaw t'at *cállee.*"

Callithumpian, Calliathumpian serenade (American), a serenade after the fashion of a charivari, in which old kettles with sticks, gridirons, cows' horns or tin horns, penny trumpets, or anything that will make a horrible and discordant sound is employed. It is possibly from the Yiddish *calle*, a bride, and means bride-thumping or making a noise at a bridal, or from "call" and "thump."

Hartmann got married. . . . Hartmann's neighbours thought it would be a bright thing to give him a *calliathumpian serenade* . . . occasion. So they got under his window and blowed and snorted, and rung their dinner-bells, and brayed on their bark horns till there was a pause. Then Hartmann stuck his head outen the winder and said: "Friends, Romans, and fellow-citizens! I thank you for the honour of this musical treat, which I suppose to your ears is as good a one as can be given. But it wants one thing. It lacks the exhilarating tones of the shot-gun, an' there it is, d——n you!" Saying this, he fired two barrels of small shot among 'em, and they scattered. The *serenade* was over.—*Phil. Hartmann and the Boys.*

Call-party (bar), given in hall by students called to the bar in the Middle Temple.

Calp, kelp (old cant), a hat.

Cámbra (tinker), a dog.

Camden-town (rhyming slang), a "brown" or halfpenny.

Camel's complaint (city), the hump, *i.e.*, low spirits.

Camesa (thieves), a shirt or chemise. From the Spanish or Italian. Written also *kemesa*, as appears from the following quotation.

My thimble of ridge and my driz *kemesa*,
All my togs were so niblike and plash.
—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

Camister (popular), a clergyman, from his wearing a white gown; "camisated," *i.e.*, one who is dressed with a shirt outward.

Camp, to (Australian), to floor, to put down. The metaphor here is the same as to "make," to "take a back seat;" to *camp*, to make to *camp*, implying that your rival cannot stand up to you. According to Wright *camp* is a provincialism meaning to contend, from the Anglo-Saxon *campan.*

At punching oxen you may guess
There's nothing out can *camp* him;
He has, in fact, the slouch and dress
Which bullock-driver stamp him.
—*H. Kendall: Billy Vickers.*

NAVAJO ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Camp candlesticks (military), empty bottles and bayonets, from the fact that in the exigencies of military life these articles are often used for the purpose.

Camp-horse (Australian). This term, peculiar to the East, is thus explained by Mr. Finch Hatton:—

Both my brother and Frank were very sound hands at cutting out, and they were both riding first-rate "camp-horses," so I watched them at work with the greatest interest. A *camp-horse* is one used for cutting out cattle on a camp, and very few horses are good at it; but the performance of a really first-class one is a sight worth seeing. Each man picks his beast, and edges him gently to the outside of the mob, on the side of the camp nearest the draft-mob. The instant the animal finds itself cut off from the camp, it makes the most desperate efforts to rejoin the herd, and the speed at which a bullock can travel, and the activity with which he turns, are marvellous.—*Finch Hatton: Advance Australia.*

Can (American), a dollar; a "canary" was very old English slang for a gold coin. A gold-piece is also called a "canary-bird" in New York.

Canard, now recognised. French *canard*, literally duck, and metaphorically false news. The first *canard* is said to have been the famous story illustrating the voracity of ducks. Thirty ducks were taken, one was chopped up fine, feathers and all, and the others ate it. Then a second was minced, and so on, till within an hour only one duck remained. Three similar stories are told by a French writer as to the origin of the term. Hence *canarder*, to humbug or spin yarns. "Donner des *canards*" is given in Hautel's Dictionary (1808) with the meaning of to deceive.

"My dear," said Mrs. Snaggs to her husband, "what is a *canard?*" "Why, a *canard* is something one *canardly* believe, of course." "Oh, to be sure! Why couldn't I think of that?"—*Rare Bits.*

The announcement that appeared in these columns, to the effect that in future no advertisements from persons offering to give tips would be accepted by us, has given rise to the usual *canards*, and has brought into play the imaginative faculties of the "London Correspondent."—*Sporting Times.*

Canary (old), a sovereign, from the colour. French argot, *jaunet.*

Canary-bird (common), a mistress. (Thieves), a prisoner.

Candle keepers (Winchester College), the inferiors (all those who are not prefects) who have been longest in the school have certain privileges, as wearing a "cow-shooter," or round-topped hat. They used to be called "jolly keepers."

Candlestick (Winchester College), a corruption of candidate. Those who go in for the college entrance examination are termed *candlesticks.*

Candlesticks (London), the fountains at Trafalgar Square.

There was his pillar (Nelson's) at Charing-Cross, just by the *candlesticks* (fountains).—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Candy-pull (American), a *candy-pull* is a party of both sexes at which molasses or sugar is boiled and pulled by two persons (whose hands are buttered) to give it proper consistency, and then mixed and pulled again, till it becomes true *candy*. The term is used in slang in many ways.

The good old-fashioned amusement known as a *candy-pull* has had more or less of a revival in society this season. Whatever the time of its first advent, it was quite popular about twenty years ago as a society entertainment, but it seemed to run its course and died away. At that period *candy-pulls* were given in some of the most aristocratic mansions on Fifth Avenue, and the rollicking scenes were oftentimes quite democratic in the fun, however full-dressed might have been their presentation.—*Brooklyn Eagle.*

Cane (common), "to lay *Cane* upon Abel;" to beat with a cane.

Cane nigger (West Indian), a happy-go-lucky fellow, one devoid of care and anxiety. From the circumstance that in "cane time" the negroes are fat and happy. As "fat as a nigger in cane time" has become proverbial in Antigua.

Caners (fashionable). In the summer of 1886, at several watering-places, almost every young lady carried a *cane*. It was originally an American fancy.

Canister (common), a hat; also "*canister* cap."

Turning round, I saw my unfortunate beaver, or *canister*, as it was called by the gentry who had it in their keeping, bounding backwards and forwards.—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

(Pugilistic), the head.

Cank (old), dumb, silent.

Cannibals (Cambridge), the training-boats for the Cambridge freshmen or the rowers themselves.

Cannis-cove (American), a dog-fancier. A word current in New York. In Dutch thieves' slang the Latin word *canis* is used for a dog, but, as the accent falls on the last syllable, it is thought to be derived from the French *caniche*. This is the more probable as the Dutch word is limited to small dogs.

Cannon (turf), the collision of two horses during a race; from billiards. Apparently on the *lucus a non* principle, the jockey bearing this name (Thomas *Cannon*) is celebrated for his scrupulous and honourable avoidance of such a mishap.

(Common), to *cannon*, to come into collision. French slang *carambolet*, literally to make a cannon at billiards.

Roaring with pain and terror, the boy *cannoned* into the very hand of a policeman, who seized him.—*Shirley Brooks: Sooner or Later.*

Canon (thieves), drunk.

One night I was with the mob, I got *canon* (drunk), this being the first time. After this, when I used to go to concert-rooms, I used to drink beer.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Canon, literally having used the "can" freely.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

The French slang for a glass of wine is *canon*. *Canonner* is to drink wine at a wine-shop, or to be an habitual tippler; and *se canonner* is to get drunk.

Cannon is a very common word in German for a drinking-cup. Hence he is "canonised," he is "shot," *i.e.*, he is drunk. "Er ist geschossen" (Körte Proverbs). The word is naturally confused with *can*, German *Kaune*, a tankard, and *canonenstiefel*, or "cannon" (*i.e.*, long boots), which are a common pattern for tankards.

Who will not empty his boots like a *can*,
He is indeed no German man.
—*Common Saying.*

Canoodle, to (English and American), to fondle, pet, dally, bill and coo.

I meet her in the evening, for she likes to take a walk
At the moment when the moon cavorts above,
And we prattle and *canoodle*, and of everything we talk,
Except, of course, that naughty topic love. —*Bird o' Freedom.*

Possibly from "cannie," gentle.

Canoodler (American), explained by quotation.

"Pray, good sir, what is a *canoodler*?" "Tell you, mum, queer business, mum, but prosperous, money—heaps of it, mum, for you and me"—and he winked significantly, jerked up a chair and squatted in it, all in a breath. . . . Undeterred, he rattled on: "I'm an original thinker, mum. Invent business opportunities. Share'm with actors, and then we *canoodle*—divvy the profits. Me and Sheridan made a big thing on the Japanese advertising screen in 'School for Scandal.' Big thing."—*Green Room Jokes.*

Cant (pugilistic), blow, a "*cant* on the chops," a blow on the face. (Tramps), explained by quotation.

We broke one window because the house was good for a *cant*—that's some food—bread or meat, and they wouldn't give it us.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

Also a gift, as a "*cant* of togs," a gift of clothing. In these senses, from *cant*, to divide, as used by Jusser, p. 278. Hence *cant*, a sham.

(Thieves), to *cant* the cues, to explain a matter, to tell a story.

"But *cant* us the cues. What was the job?" "A pinch for an emperor's slang. We touched his leather too, but it was very lathy."—*On the Trail.*

Canteen (South African), a roadside tavern; natives often call all kinds of drink *canteen*.

Canteen medal (army), a good conduct stripe which is gained by absence from the defaulters' book. The illusion implies that the bearer owes his stripe rather to a strong head than good resolution to keep away from the canteen.

Canticle (old slang), a parish clerk.

Can't say National Intelligencer (American), equivalent to saying "he is drunk," it being held that no one who is not sober can pronounce the name of this very old and respectable Washington newspaper. There is a story in which the phrase originated—or which originated

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

from it, to the effect that a father in Washington who had a dissipated son, always obliged him when he returned home at night to submit to this test. If he said *Nacial Intellencer*, he was obliged to sleep in the hay-loft of the stable.

Canuck (American), a Canadian. The origin of this word appears to be unknown. The derivation from *Connaught*, an Irishman, is far-fetched and doubtful. It may be possibly the first syllable of *Canada*, with an Indian termination, but this is mere conjecture. *Uc* or *uq*' is a common Algenkin ending to nouns. It is probably an Indian word modified.

Canvasseens (nautical), sailors' canvas trousers.

Canvas town (popular), the portion of Wimbledon Common occupied by the flags of the riflemen when encamped there —within the flags.

Cap (thieves), a false cover to a tossing coin. To *cap*, to assist as a confederate, especially of cardsharpers. See CAPPER. (Universities), to *cap* the quadrangle, to cross the area of the college, cap in hand, in reverence to the "fellows" who sometimes walk there.

Cape cod turkey (American), salt fish. In the same way a "Yarmouth capon" is a bloater.

Capella (theatrical), a coat. From the Italian.

Capeovi (coster), sick, seedy.

Caper (American), a device, idea, or invention.

Langtry and Daly worked the Chinese Boy, but the Arab is a change and then this trap *caper* knocks the newspaper fiends silly.—*New York Morning Journal.*

"The proper *caper*," the last fashionable fancy, the latest "*comme il faut* device."

Mind-reading is now *the proper caper*. "Take hold of my left hand and tell me what I'm thinking of," said the head of the family to his confiding spouse. "Oh, yes," said she, grasping his hand convulsively, "you are thinking about taking me to hear Patti." She had to guess again.—*Boston Herald.*

(Streets), device, occupation for a living.

"Are you goin' a tottin'?" "No." . . . "Then what *caper* are you up to?"—*Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins.*

Caper-sauce (common), to "cut *caper-sauce*," to be hanged.

Capers (thieves), "merchant of *capers*," a dancer.

And my father, as I've heard say,
Fake away!
Was a merchant of *capers* gay,
Who cut his last fling with great applause.
Nix my doll pals, fake away!
—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

Also *caper* merchant.

Capper (American thieves), explained by quotation.

Gamblers are called knights of the green cloth, and their lieutenants, who are sent out after greenhorns, are called decoys, *cappers*, and steerers.—*New York Slang Dictionary.*

Capper-clawing (popular), a fight between females.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Captain Copperthorne's crew (old slang), where every one wishes to rule the roast, or to take command.

Captain Crank (old cant), head of a gang of highwaymen.

Captain Hackum (old slang), a blustering bully, a Bombastes Furioso.

Captain lieutenant (old slang), the flesh of an old calf, meat that was neither veal nor beef. This phrase was of military origin, and was a simile drawn from the officer of that denomination. These men, while ranking as captains, only drew the pay of a lieutenant, and though not full captains were above the lieutenants.

Captain Queernabs (old slang), a man who was shabbily dressed and ill-conditioned.

Captain Sharp (old slang), a cheat, blackleg, or common swindler.

Captain Tom (old slang), the ringleader of a mob. Sometimes also the mob itself was so called.

Cap your lucky (American thieves), run away.

Cap your skin, to (thieves), to strip naked.

Caravan (old slang), a large sum of money, also a person swindled out of a large amount. (Pugilistic), a railway train, especially a train expressly chartered to convey people to a prize fight (Hotten).

Caravanserai (pugilistic), a railway station.

Carcoon (Anglo-Indian), a clerk, from the Mahratta *kārkān*, a clerk (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

My benefactor's chief *carcoon* allowed me to sort out and direct despatches to officers at a distance who belonged to the command.—*Pandurang Hari.*

Card (popular), a character. A man may be a knowing, a downy, rum, or shifting *card*, or queer sort of *card*, according to circumstances.

Mr. Thomas Potter, whose great aim it was to be considered as a knowing *card*, a fast goer, and so forth.—*Sketches by Boz.*

The last time that he got run in,
Is days about a week,
And, on the charge of drunkenness,
Was brought before the beak;
He chaffed the magistrate and said,
"You are a rum old *card!*"
So forty shillings he was fined,
Or else a month with hard.
—*G. Horncastle: The Frying Pan.*

(Common), a device, undertaking. A strong *card*, an undertaking likely to succeed. On the *cards*, likely, probable.

Cardinal (American), a lobster; *cardinal* hash, lobster salad (New York Slang Dictionary).

(Old), a lady's red cloak. Now mulled red wine.

Cargo (Winchester), explained by quotation.

Scholars may supplement their fare with jam, potted meats . . . or, better still, from the contents of *cargoes, i.e.*, hampers from home.—*Everyday Life in our Public Schools.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Carler (New York thieves), a clerk.

Carlicues, curlicues (American), lively tricks, capers. The derivation from curly and cue seems to be due to a mere resemblance in sound, and an arbitrary combination. Bartlett suggests *caracole* (French), anagrams being common in colloquial language. The old word *carle-cat*, or *carlicat*, a male cat or kitten, may have influenced the formation of *carlicues*.

Carnes (popular), to heap up caresses, flatteries, compliments, and blandishments, with the view of deceiving the persons on whom they are lavished. The derivation is from *carne* or *cairn*, a heap or pile of stones. A similar idea led to the use of the phrase, "pile up the agony." The word is also "carmes," evidently from the gypsy *kāms*, often pronounced *karms*, meaning loves, likes, pets, &c. A *kām* or *karm*, which is nearer to the Sanskrit, is a desire, a love, &c.

Carney, flattery, hypocritical language. Supposed to be of Irish origin. To *carney* or come the *carney*, to flatter, wheedle, insinuate oneself.

Carnish (thieves), meat, from the Italian *carne; carnish*-ken, a thieves' eating-house. In the French argot "carne" is tough meat.

Carob (tinker), to cut.

Caroon (costermongers), five shillings. Possibly from the Italian *corona*.

Carpet (common), to be called upon the *carpet*, or to be *carpeted*, to be scolded, reprimanded, to have to give an account of one's self.

Poor Percy was often *carpeted*, and as often he promised amendment.—*Mark Lemon: Golden Fetters.*

What looked to most people like a miscarriage of justice occurred in connection with the August Handicap, won by Rhythm. George Barrett, who rode the second, was *carpeted*, on the complaint of the apprentice Allsopp (inspired by his master), for foul riding.—*Sporting Times.*

(Masonic), the painting representing the emblems of a degree.

Carpet-bagger (popular), a term introduced from America. A man who seeks election in a place with which he has no connection (T. L. O. Davies).

Other *carpet-baggers*, as political knights-errant unconnected with the localities are called, have had unpleasant receptions.—*Guardian Newspaper.*

Synonymous with *carpet-bag* politician.

Wright gives the definition: *Carpet-bagger*, an opprobrious appellation applied to a resident of one of the Northern States, who after the Civil War of 1861–65 removed to the South for temporary residence, and the promotion of personal and selfish ends.

Carpet-bag recruit (army), one of the better class who joins with his baggage, with other clothes in fact than those in which he stands.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Carpet-swab (popular), carpet-bag.

A little gallows-looking chap . . . with a *carpet-swab* and mucking togs.—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Carpet tom-cat (military), an officer who shows much attention to, and spends a great deal of his time in the company of ladies.

Carrier (old), a tell-tale. (Thieves), a rogue employed to look out and watch upon roads, at taverns, &c., in order to carry information to his gang.

Carrier-pigeon (thieves), a swindler, one who formerly used to cheat lottery office-keepers; now used among betting-men to describe one who runs from place to place with commissions (Hotten).

Carrion case (popular), a shirt, a shift.

Carrion-hunter (old cant), an undertaker.

Carrots, carroty-nob (common), applied to a red-haired person.

"Here, one of you boys—you, *Carrots*—run to the 'Compasses' and tell Mr. Kiddy he's wanted." A sharp, red-haired lad darted off with the message.—*Mark Lemon: Loved at Last.*

Carry, to (old cant), to *carry* the keg is said of one easily angered. An allusion to *fiery* spirits.

Carry corn, to (common), to bear success well and equally. It is said of a man who breaks down under a sudden access of wealth—a successful horse-racing man and unexpected legatees often do—or who becomes affected and intolerant, that "he doesn't *carry corn* well" (Hotten).

Carry me out! (American), an expression of incredulity or affected disgust. It implies feeling faint and requiring to be carried out into the fresh air. It would be called forth by a bad pun, or an impossible story, or "blowing;" often preceded by "oh, good night," and sometimes intensified by the addition of "and leave me in the gutter."

Carry on, to (common), to make love to, to flirt openly.

Also to joke a person to excess, to have a great spree, to be lively or arrogant, or act in any out of the way manner.

There is a time in the life of every young lady when she feels like *carrying on*. No matter how modest, and pious, and truly good a girl may be, a day comes when she feels like doing something ridiculous, and creating a great laugh.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Cart (turf), an owner is said to be "in the *cart*," or *carted*, when his horse is prevented winning by some fraud on the part of those in his employment. Instances are not wanting where the public have been put "in the *cart*" by an owner who resents their interference with his field of speculation.

(City.) When two or three fellows are playing at dominoes or cards, the one who has the lowest score but one, at any moment of the game, is said to be

"in the *cart*." The lowest score is called "on the tail-board."

Also race-course: "traversed the *cart*," walked over the course.

Carted (old), signified taken to execution or whipped at the cart's tail.

Carts (popular), a pair of shoes; also "crab shells."

Cart-wheel (thieves), five-shilling piece. French slang has *roue de derrière* for a five-franc piece.

Carvel (New York thieves), jealous. Probably meaning also in love or wooing; from *carve*, to make love to. *Vide* Halliwell.

Ca-sa (legal), a writ of *capias ad satisfaciendam*.

Casa, caser, carser (costermongers and negro minstrels), a house, Italian. (Theatrical), a house. French slang has *case* with the same signification.

Cascade or **hang out** (theatrical), scenic effect at conclusion of scene or performance. (Popular), to *cascade*, to vomit.

Case (American), a dollar, good or bad. In England a bad crown piece. Hebrew, *kesef*, silver, כֶּסֶף; hence *kasch*, a head-piece (*i.e.*, a coin), and the Yiddish *caser*, a crown.

(Tailors), "*case* of pickles," a hopeless *case;* "he is the greatest *case* evermore," he is the worst man known, or, he is a most remarkable individual.

(Old), a brothel. Also a water-closet. (Thieves), a house.

Caser (thieves), explained by quotation. *Vide* CASE.

So one morning I found I did not have more than a *caser* (five shillings).—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Cask (society), a brougham.

Cass, cassan (thieves and roughs), cheese. From the Italian *cacio*. It is remarkable that this, the oldest slang for cheese, is still current among thieves in New York. It is found in nearly all the Latin, Teutonic, and Celtic languages. In old cant, *casson*. It is generally supposed to have been introduced by the gypsies.

Here's ruffpeck and *cassons*, and all of the best,
And scraps of the dainties of gentry cofe's feast.
—*Broome: Jovial Crew.*

Cassan. See CASS.

Cassie (printers), wrinkled, stained, or outside sheets of paper. Old provincial, *cassen*, cast off. From *casse*, to discharge, cashier. Latin, *cassare*, to break.

Cast (popular). Men in small boats who want to be towed behind steamers say "give us a *cast*" (Hotten).

Castieau's hotel (Australian thieves' patter), the Melbourne jail, so called from Mr. J. B. Castieau, the governor of the Melbourne jail.

He "caught" a month and had to "white it out" at "diamond-cracking" in *Castieau's hotel.—The Australian Printer's Keepsake.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Castle-rag (rhyming slang), a "flag" or fourpence.

Cast-offs (nautical), landsmen's clothes.

Castor (common), a bicycle. Properly a small wheel.

Mr. C—, who being driven by a lady whose carriage was molested by cads on *castors*, climbed solemnly down, and . . . administered a well-deserved collective hiding to the crowd.—*Sporting Times.*

Cast up one's account, to. *Vide* ACCOUNTS.

Casual (common), a tramp or poor man, who seeks shelter at night at a workhouse.

I have, at the risk of shocking the reader of delicate sensibilities, quoted at full the terms in which my ruffianly *casual* chamber fellow delivered himself of his opinion as to the power of "cheek" illimitable.—*J. Greenwood: Seven Curses of London.*

Cat (popular), a drunken, fighting prostitute. Also contemptuously applied to a woman.

(Society), "an old *cat*," an old lady of malicious disposition, who has *une mauvaise langue*, and is always saying disagreeable things and telling ill-natured stories. *Cat*, or old *cat*, is often applied by servants to their mistress.

Well, look here, Jessie, I am determined to have some fun while the *cat's* away.—*Truth.*

"A tame *cat*" is a man in society who always has the *entrée* of a house and is treated almost like one of the family, and who, if a bachelor, is not looked upon as a likely suitor for one of the daughters, but is made general use of when a man is wanted in a hurry to fill up a vacancy.

(Thieves), lady's muff. To "free a *cat*," to steal a muff. To go out "*cat* and kitten" hunting, is stealing pewter pots from publicans. (Popular), to "shoot the *cat*," to vomit. (Tailors), to "whip the *cat*," to work at private houses. (Infantry), to "shoot the *cat*," to sound the bugle for defaulters' drill.

Cat and kittens (thieves), quart and pint pots.

Cat and mouse (rhyming slang), house.

Catawampously (American), fiercely, eagerly, violently. "*Catawampously* chewed up," completely defeated, utterly demolished.

There is something cowardly in the idea of disunion. Where are the wealth and power that showed us fourteen millions? Take to our heels before three hundred thousand slaveholders for fear of being "*catawampously* chewed up."—*Frederick Douglas: A Negro Orator.*

Catch (popular), or "a great *catch*," woman or man worth marrying. Generally applied to wealthy men and heiresses, or "warm" widows.

I am friends with her ma, I stand drinks to her pa,
They think I'm a *catch*, that is plain.
—*G. Horncastle: I'll See you again in the Morning* (*Ballad*).

Catch a bob, to (American), a boy's expression for getting on behind and taking a ride gratis; getting a lift.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"Bob, what does your father do?" inquired a farmer of a lad who had *caught a bob* on his sleigh.—*American Newspaper.*

Catch a lobster, to (American), same as the English "to catch a crab."

She is not the first hand that *caught a lobster* by puttin' in her oar afore her turn, I guess.—*Sam Slick: The Clockmaker.*

Catch on a snag, to (American), to meet one's superior.

In rough Western parlance a man who falls in with such a player (a man who, bearing a high reputation for all-round godliness, is a crack "poker" player) *catches on a snag*, and it is said that every one who visits the North-West comes across sooner or later the snag on which he is to catch.—*Cumberland: The Queen's Highway.*

Catch bet (popular), a bet made for the purpose of entrapping the unwary by means of a paltry subterfuge (Hotten).

Catchee (pidgin-English), to get, have, own, possess, hold. "My look-see one piecee man *catchee* chow-chow"—"I saw a man eating." "My *catchee* waifo"—"I am—or am to be married." "My no *catchee* one flin inside allo t'at house"—"I have not one friend in all that family."

Suppose one man no *catchee* cash, he no can play at game;
Supposey pigeon no hab wing, can no make fly all same.
—*Wang-ti.*

Catch-'em-alive (common), paper smeared with a sticky substance to catch flies.

A picture-room devoted to a few of the regular shaky old saints, with such coats of varnish that every holy personage served for a fly-trap, and became what is now called in the vulgar tongue a *catch-'em-alive, O.*—*Charles Dickens: Little Dorritt.*

Also a small-tooth comb, alluding to the tenants in the hair of dirty people.

Catch on, to (common), imported from America; to accept an offer, to understand.

Randolph looked rather puzzled at first, but when he *did catch on* to the Archbishop's meaning, he had to be thumped on the back by his pal Chamberlain, to prevent him from choking.—*Funny Folks.*

"You *catch on*," is an invitation to take one's turn, to follow suit.

(Theatrical), a play is said to be *caught on* when successful.

Catch on the hop, to (common), to catch or find one by taking one's chance when he is travelling or moving about. Also to catch unawares.

Catch-pole (old slang), a sheriff's officer.

Catever (popular), poor, bad, of doubtful quality. According to Hotten, from the Lingua Franca and Italian *cattivo*, bad. "Well, how's things: bona?" "No, *catever.*"

Catfish death (American), suicide by drowning.

Col. "Pat" Donan doesn't like the play of "Hamlet." Hear the eloquent adjective slinger: "I have no patience, much less sympathy, with a wretched weakling who goes around jabbering at dilapidated old ghosts in tin helmets and green gauze veils, under bogus moonlight; everlastingly threatening to do something, and never doing it; driving his sweetheart to lunacy and a *catfish death*, by his dime-museum freaks."—*Chicago Press.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Cat-heads (old), a woman's breasts.

Cat-lap (common), weak drink.

Cats' head (Winchester College), the fag end of a shoulder of mutton.

Cats' meat (popular), the lungs.

Cats' party (familiar), a party to which none but those of the weaker sex are invited, and at which tea drinking and singing are indulged in.

She was once introduced to young M——. This was at a *cats' party* given by Mrs. —— to a few ladies.—*Standard.*

It is likely Mr. Justice —— thought it funny and appropriate to hint that a festivity was called a *cats' party* on account of the music.—*Town Talk.*

Cats' water (popular), gin, cat being here meant for woman.

Cat's-skin earl (parliamentary), one of the three senior earls in the House of Lords.

Catting (common) vomiting.

Cattle (popular), a kind. One talks of men being "rum *cattle*," "queer *cattle*," just as one talks of a man being "a queer fish" or "a downy bird."

But lawyers is *cattle* I feel to hate,
And this one—I'd like to punch his head.
—*Keighley Goodchild: How Waif went to England.*

Caucus (American), lately introduced into England, originally a meeting of politicians called together to debate upon the claims of candidates for political or municipal offices, and agreeing to act together on the day of election.

What a *caucus* is, as popularly understood in England, needs no explanation; but the curious thing about the word is the seeming impossibility of ascertaining with any certainty its origin and derivation. The explanation generally given is that it is a corruption of "caulkers" or "calk-house." One authority says that the members of the shipping interest, the "caulkers" of Boston, were associated, shortly before the War of Independence, in actively promoting opposition to England, and that the word arose from their meetings in the caulkers' house or "calk-house."

Another derivation has, however, been proposed. In the "Transactions of the American Philological Association, 1872," Dr. Hammond Trumbull suggests that the origin of the word is to be found in the native Indian *cau-cau-as-u*, meaning one who advises.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

It may be observed that the derivation of the word from "caulkers" is perfectly rational, and has been accepted for more than a century. There is a pun implied in the name ("caulker," a tremendous story, an overwhelming fellow) which probably aided to make it popular.

Caught on the fly (American), a phrase borrowed from ball play, but applied to being caught, interviewed, or otherwise arrested, while travelling.

Carter Harrison told that New York reporter that he "must be *caught on the fly.*' According to his own umpiring, then, his New York speech was a foul bawl.—*American Newspaper.*

An English equivalent is "caught on the hop."

Caulk, to (nautical), to lie down on deck and sleep, with clothes on.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Caulker (society), a lie, derived from a "caulker," a stiff dram, that takes a considerable deal of swallowing, also supposed to be derived from "corker," a regular stopper. (Common), a stiff dram.

The Mobile officer joins us heartily in a *caulker*, and does not need to be pressed to take a little supper.—*Archibald Forbes: My Experiences of the War between France and Germany.*

Caution (general), any one who is peculiarly dressed, peculiar in his habits, or eccentric, some one who makes himself ridiculous. This word is an abbreviation of the expression "a *caution* to snakes."

Altogether he was a *caution* to look at.—*Sam Slick: The Clockmaker.*

Also anything out of the common way.

Their win against Middlesex—who led off with a first innings of 301—by eight wickets is an example of one of their surprises, and what is vulgarly called a *caution.—Bailey's Monthly Magazine.*

Cavaulting (old), copulation. From the Lingua Franca *cavolta.*

Cavaulting school (old slang), a house of ill fame, a brothel.

Cave-in (American), to fall in. "A metaphor taken," says Hotten, "from an abandoned mining shaft," but it was used in America before 1849. Now generally applied to a failure, such as a bankruptcy, a collapse of stock speculations, or of political schemes.

That is what Colonel Sanderson and his colleagues in the representation of Irish landlordism call it—an absolute all-round *cave-in* on the part of the Government.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

It is also applied to any kind of indentation.

I went down dar wid my hat *caved in,*
Du-da, du-da!
Came back home wid my pocket full of tin,
Du-da, du-da-day!
—*Negro Minstrel Song.*

Cave-in, properly to "calve-in," a phrase introduced by Dutch navvies. Flemish *inkalven*, to *cave-in.* Friesic *calven*, to calve as a cow, also to *cave-in.* The falling portion of earth is compared to a calf dropped by a cow (Skeat). From early times glaciers were called by the Dutch cows, and the icebergs which fell from them calves. The falling of the bergs was called calving.

Cavort, to (American), to kick up the heels like a horse at play, or to act extravagantly.

As long as there has been a stage for pretty women to *cavort* on, there have been impressionable youths to worship at the shrines of the pretty women.—*American Newspaper.*

To move about in an aimless manner.

O Sal! yer's that derned fool from Simpson's, *cavortin'* round yer in the dew.—*Bret Harte: Penelope.*

Cawbawn (up-country Australian), spelt also *cobbon*, big, a word borrowed from the blacks, which has passed into bush-slang, and is generally used by bushmen.

"There," said Stone, pointing to the big house, "nobody has lived in the

'*cawbawn* humpy'—that is what the blacks call it—since Mr. Cosgrove went away."—*A. C. Grant: Bush-Life in Queensland.*

Caxton (theatrical), a wig.

Cayuse (cowboys), a horse.

Caz (thieves), cheese. See CASS. An easy dupe. As good as *caz*, easy to accomplish.

Cedar (prison), a pencil.

He was a "first-class" man, entitled to write every quarter. He provided *cedar* and a sheet of paper on which I wrote what was necessary.—*Evening News.*

Century (turf), a hundred pounds.

A little cheque for a *century* is the prize we offer this week for the successful accomplishment of the task of naming the first three.—*Sporting Times.*

Cert (turf), used in reference to a racing event thought to be about to have a successful issue.

A man who was burdened with debt
Heard a *cert* and heavily bebt,
But what should have won
So badly did ron
That quickly the man had to "gebt."
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Certainties (printers). See UNCERTAINTIES. A vulgarism applied to infants of the male sex.

Chaff-cutter (old), slanderous tongue, slanderer.

Chaffer (popular), the mouth; a great talker.

One of these men had a wife who used to sell for him; she was considered to be the best *chaffer* in the row; not one of them could stand against her tongue.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

To "moisten one's *chaffer*," to have a drink.

Chaffy (Blue-coat School), spruce, amiable.

Chai, chy, tchai (gypsy), girl, woman; Romany, *chi*, a female gypsy.

Chairus, cheirus, chyrus (gypsy), time. Bonar gives this word also for "heaven."

Chal (gypsy), (pronounced *tchal*, *ch* as in church), a lad, a gypsy. Hotten says this was the old Romany term for a man, but it is as much in use as ever. A woman is not a *chie*, but a *chy* or *chai*, to rhyme with *why*.

Chālava (gypsy), I touch.

Chal droch (tinker), a knife.

Chalk (turf), unknown or incompetent. The names of most jockeys are printed on slides, which are kept ready at every race-meeting for insertion in the telegraph-board. Formerly a certain number of slate or black slides were used, so that the name of a new jockey could at once be written thereon in *chalk*. Hence "a *chalk*-jockey" came to mean one unknown, or unfavourably known, to fame. His name was not considered worth printing. (Common), unknown, obscure.

A list of remarkably *chalk*-titled personages.—*World.*

(Tailors), *chalk!* silence!

Chalk-farm (rhyming slang), arm.

Chalks (popular), by *chalks*, by far, by many degrees.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

In chatting, singing, and dancing,
Don't we pass each night away,
We beat by *chalks* your finest parties,
I'll a wager lay.
We are all jolly, &c.
—*Song.*

Also "long *chalks*," originally an expression used by tailors only, alluding to the chalk lines on garments.

"From your counsel's statement and the seeming honesty of your countenance," said the learned magistrate, "I was quite convinced that you were innocent; but the evidence of the last witness has quite upset all my previous convictions."

"I wish it would upset all mine," growled the culprit.

But it didn't by long *chalks*, and his address was Millbank for the next six months.—*Sporting Times.*

Also the legs. To "walk one's *chalks*," to go away.

The prisoner has fabricated his pilgrim's staff, to speak scientifically, and perambulated his calcareous strata. "What?" Cut his stick, and walked his *chalks*.—*Kingsley: Two Years Ago.*

Chalk, to (nautical), to make one pay his footing or stand treat. At sea it is the custom the first time a new comer goes up a mast for some old hand to chase him up and try to get near enough to him to *chalk* his shoes. If he succeeds the new comer is expected to pay for a bottle of rum.

Chalk up, to (Australian slang, less frequent in England), to debit to a person. Undoubtedly the expression arose from the custom of the keeper of an ale-house making a note of the various drinks consumed in a drinking bout, by scribbling them down with *chalk* upon the wall.

Whole weeks and months of hard-earned gold, by ounces and even pounds weight at a time, disappeared at these haunts, in a mazy account and reckoning between a landlord and his customer, *chalked up* during successive days of intoxication.—*W. Westgarth: Victoria late Australia Felix.*

(Common), *chalk* it up, put it to my account.

Cham (gypsy), cheek, leather, tin. *Chammerdino*, a slap on the cheek.

Chamberlain (Winchester College), the brewer of the college and school.

Chamber of Horrors (Parliamentary), the Peeresses' gallery at the House of Lords, from its being railed round as if it contained objectionable or repulsive inmates.

There could be no doubt as to the inconvenience, the gallery being generally known as the *Chamber of Horrors*.—*Daily News.*

Chammy (society), champagne, termed also "cham," or "boy," and sometimes "fizz."

Champagne Charley (popular), any dissipated man or noted drinker of "fizz." The name of a song which appeared in 1868, which was set to a very pleasing and original air. The original *Charley* is said to have been a wine-merchant, who was in the habit of making presents of bottles of *champagne* to all his friends.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Champion, very commonly used in America to signify pre-eminent. An exemplary humbug is described as "a *champion* fraud." A noisy candidate for office was denounced by a Chicago newspaper as "the *champion* gas-bag."

Champ up, to (popular), to tear up, pull upwards.

Chancer (tailors), one who exaggerates, or lies. Also one who attempts anything and is incompetent.

Chancery. To get a man's head into *chancery* is to get it under your arm so as to pummel it at ease. The allusion is obvious.

Chance the ducks (popular), an ironical phrase signifying "come what may" (Hotten).

Chance your arm (tailors), try, let it go, chance it.

Chaney-eyed (popular), with but one eye, or eyes like those of a Chinese, as *chaney* is sometimes used as a corruption of China.

It is another prisoner, who replaces the last individual—a "wall-eyed" or *chaney-eyed* prisoner, with an open mouth.—*The Graphic.*

Chant (old cant), an advertisement.

Chant, to (popular), to talk, inform, cry up, sing ballads, &c.; *chanting*-coves, reporters.

Chanters (popular), explained by quotation.

As long as one can remember, gangs of men have perambulated the highways in the frosty months, but until recently they were invariably *chanters* with a legend of coming all the way from Manchester. But song is eschewed in modern times.—*Greenwood: Seven Curses of London.*

Chanty (nautical). "There are two kinds of sea songs: those which are sung at concerts and in drawing-rooms, and sometimes, but not very often, at sea, and those which are never heard off shipboard. The latter have obtained in this age the name of *chanty*, a term which I do not recollect ever having heard when I was following the life. It is obviously manufactured out of the French word" (W. Clark Russell).

Chapel (printers). As various references are made to matters arising out of the *chapel*, it is necessary to describe this institution. Technically, it refers to the meetings of the workmen to discuss trade matters, to settle disputes, and to consider charitable appeals, &c., and various rules are enforced for the guidance of the workmen and maintenance of good feeling amongst themselves. It has been supposed that the term arose from the fact that Caxton established the first printing-press in this country in Westminster Abbey. The officers of these chapels usually consist of a "father" and "clerk."

Chapel of ease (common), the water-closet.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Chapper-cot (Anglo-Indian). Hindu, *chappar-khat*, a bedstead with curtains.

Chappie (society), a term of endearment in use among the "mashers" of society when addressing their friends and acquaintances, much in vogue lately. A dandy.

I am going to send this correspondence to *Punch*. Ta! ta! dear old *chappie*.—*Punch*.

He was a harmless-looking *chappie*.—*Sporting Times*.

Chapt (old cant), thirsty.

Char (gypsy), grass.

Charl-chorl (gypsy), to pour out, vomit; *chorl it avree*, pour it out.

Charge, to (Winchester College), to run at all speed.

Charing Cross (rhyming slang), horse.

Chariot-buzzing (thieves), picking pockets in an omnibus.

Charles, his friend (theatrical), the walking gentleman, or secondary interesting young man of a play.

Charley (thieves), a gold watch; probably from the old word *Charley*, the watch or a watchman. (Tailors), the nap on a "faced" cloth, also a round-shouldered figure.

Charley Bates' farm. See BATES' FARM.

Charley Lancaster (rhyming slang), handkerchief, pronounced "handkercher."

Charley-pitcher (thieves), one who plays to win watches, or charleys. A *pitcher* is one who works the streets. In San Francisco in 1849 there were open-air monte players who only took watches for a bet. A sharper who entices countrymen into playing at some swindling game, such as "prick the garter" or "thimble-rig."

Charley Prescot (rhyming slang), a waistcoat.

Charlie (old), a name for a watchman.

It was the duty of the watchman to call the hours, but no voice of any vigilant *Charlie* had as yet saluted the ears of Lowry.—*Turnpike Dick, or the Star of the Road*.

Charlies (Winchester College), thick string gloves, called thus from the Rev. Charles Griffith. (Popular), a woman's breasts, also "bubbies," "dairies."

Charm (thieves), a picklock.

Charpoy (Anglo-Indian), explained by quotation.

We must send down to the bazaar, and get tables, chairs, and *charpoys* (bedsteads).—*W. H. Russell: My Diary in India in the Years* 1858–59.

Charrshom, chershom (tinker), a crown.

Charter the bar, charter the grocery, to (American), to buy all the liquor in a groggery or "rum-mill" and give it away freely to all comers. This is not an uncommon occurrence in the South and West.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

This fine Arkansas gentleman raises several hundred bales;
Unless through drought, or worm, or some other contingency, his crop runs short and fails;
And when his crop is ginned and baled, he puts it on board a boat,
And *charters the bar*, and has a devil of a good spree while down to New Orleans he and his cotton float.
—*Albert Pike.*

Bolus was no niggard. He would as soon treat a regiment or *charter the grocery* for the day as any other way.—*J. G. Baldwin: David Bolus, Esq.*

Chat (thieves), a house; from chattels, or château.

I had not been at Sutton very long before I piped a slavey (servant) come out of a *chat* (house), so when she had got a little way up the double (turning), I pratted (went) into the house.—*Rev. J. W. Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

"That's the *chat*," the proper words to use; the state or facts of a case.

Has the gentleman any right to be in this room at all, or has he not? . . . That's the *chat*, as I take it.—*Anthony Trollope: Orley Farm.*

Chat-hole (prison), a hole in the wall, made to carry on a conversation.

Chats (theatrical), properties; short for chattels. (Popular), lice. In this sense *chats* is probably from *chatel*, meaning cattle.

(Stock Exchange), London, Chatham, and Dover Railway stock.

Chatta (Anglo-Indian), an umbrella.

Chatterers (common), the teeth.

Chattering (prize ring), a blow on the mouth.

Chatter broth (old slang), a tea party.

Chatty (popular), filthy, lousy. A *chatty*, a lousy person; a "*chatty* doss," a bed with vermin. *Vide* CHATS.

Chatty-feeder (thieves), a spoon. *Vide* CHATTY.

Chaunt or **chant, to**, to take worthless horses to fairs and sell them by false representations.

Jack Firebrand and Tom Humbold . . . was here this morning *chanting* horses with 'em.—*Thackeray: Virginians.*

To *chaunt* the play, to explain the tricks and devices of thieves.

Chaunted upon the leer (old cant), an advertiser.

Chaunter (street), a man who sells ballads, last dying speeches, &c., in the streets. Street ballad singer.

The running patterer . . . is accompanied generally by a *chaunter*. The *chaunter* not only sings, but fiddles.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

A dealer who takes worthless horses to fairs and sells them by false representations.

Chaunter-cull (street). There are rhymsters who carry on a trade in London—though the headquarters appear to be in Birmingham—who write ballads to order on any subject, to be sung in the streets, on events that may

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

interest the public: murders, executions, elopements, breaches of promise, suicides, or horrible railway accidents. The honorarium paid to these self-styled poets is said to vary from half-a-crown (the minimum) to three half-crowns (the maximum).

Chauvering donna (theatrical), a prostitute. *Chauvering* is cant for sexual intercourse. Also, "columbine, knofka."

Chauvering moll (old cant), a prostitute.

Chaw (university), a trick; to *chaw*, to deceive. (American), to use up.

Chawbacon (common), a country clown, a rough, rude, uneducated rustic, a clodhopper; sometimes colloquially designated as "Giles" or "Hodge," from the supposed prevalence of these patronymics among the rural population.

The *chaw-bacons*, hundreds of whom were the Earl's tenants, raised a shout.—*Savage: R. Medlicott.*

Chaw-buckt (Anglo-Indian), a whip. Hindu, *chabuk;* gypsy, *chuckni.*

Ye same day Ramgivan was brought forth and slippered, the next day he was beat on ye soles of his feet, ye third day *chaw-buckt*, and ye 4th drub'd till he could not speak, and all to force a writing in our names for Rupees 50,000.—*Hedges.*

Chaw over, to (popular), to repeat one's words with a view to ridicule (Hotten).

Chaws or **chores** (American), small jobs. The handy man does *chores.*

Very early in the morning there is an unpleasant operation to be performed, called "doing *chaws*," in the simple language of the farm. This luckily applied only to Charlie and Mr. C., who, I believe, except during the busiest part of the year, work the 300 acre farm without help. "Doing *chaws*," by the way, means feeding the creatures generally.—*Phillips-Wolley: Trottings of a Tenderfoot.*

Chaw up, to (popular), to finish one up. "Chawed up," done for.

I felt as if I could *chaw* him right up, I was so mad.—*Sam Slick: The Clockmaker.*

Cheapside (old slang), "He came at it by way of *Cheapside*," that is, little or nothing was given for it.

Cheat or **nubbing-cheat** (thieves), the gallows.

See what your laziness is come to; to the *cheat*, for thither will you go now, that's infallible.—*Fielding: Jonathan Wild.*

Chee (pidgin), long; probably an abbreviation of *muchee* "much," "China-boy no stoppee chee tim."

Chee-chee, (gipsy), nothing, less, superfluous, also equivalent to "be silent."

Cheek (common), assurance, impudence. Probably from the habit of impudent persons of putting their tongue in their *cheek.*

Although she was neither good-looking nor young,
And her virtues, if any, unknown and unsung,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

She'd a dangerous eye, and an eloquent tongue,
And a *cheek* that was something sublime.
—*Sporting Times.*

Also, share or portion.

Cheeks (common), the posterior.

Cheeky (common), impudent.

Boys give me a good deal of annoyance, they are so very *cheeky.—Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

Cheese (society), "quite the *cheese*," varied to the "Stilton," or "real Stilton," synonymous with quite the thing, from the Hindostani or Anglo-Indian *chiz*, thing. Sometimes *cheese* is used as a derisive nickname for any man who has pretensions to being smart. (Schools), an adept; one boy will talk of another being an awful *cheese* at bowling, fives, Latin verses, &c. (R. M. Academy), hard *cheese*, equivalent to "hard lines," no luck; especially used at billiards. (Popular), *cheese* it, leave off. A corruption of cease.

I was just entering upon one of my own composition, when, sir, I was vulgarly requested to *cheese* it.—*Sporting Times.*

(Thieves), "*cheese* your barrikin," hold your noise. (Ninepins), the ball.

He sent the damaged *cheese* skimming and cannoning among the four great pins. —*Greenwood: Tag, Rag, & Co.*

Cheese boxes (American), the nickname given by irreverent Confederates to the ironclads of the Monitor type then (at the time of the Civil War) just invented. They, however, spoke even as disrespectfully of their own unsuccessful attempts at a similar class of vessel, calling them "tinclads."

Cheese-cutter (common), an aquiline nose; also a large, square peak to a cap. *Cheese-cutters*, bandy legs.

Cheese-knife (army), sword.

Cheesemongers, once a popular name for the First Lifeguards (Hotten).

Cheese-toaster (army), a sword.

I'll drive my *cheese-toaster* through his body.—*Thackeray: The Virginians.*

Cheesy (society), excellent, smart, varied sometimes to "rare Stilton," which might be said to be the square power of *cheesy.*

Che-muck (American), food; taken from the Indians of the North-West, and now current among the miners.

Cherpin llyower (tinker), book. "*Cherpin* appears to be vulgar. *Llyower* was on second thought declared by Owen to be the right word." Gaelic, *leabhar.* — *The Gypsies. Vide* LYESKIN CHERPS, telling fortunes.

Cherry (thieves), a young girl.

Cherry-bums (army). *Vide* BUM.

Cherry-merry (Anglo-Indian), a present of money.

Cherry-merry-bamboo (Anglo-Indian), a beating, a term probably invented by sufferers with very thick hides indeed.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Cherry pie (common), this term was formerly used with the sense of the more modern "tart," or girl.

Cherry-pipe (thieves), a woman. Pipe is rhyming slang for ripe.

Cherry-ripe (rhyming slang), a pipe.

Chestnuts (American and English), an exclamation used in reference to stale news.

The thing's got so bloomin' stale, I was afraid you'd yell *chestnuts* at me if I said anythin'.—*Sporting Times.*

Chete (old cant), this word was extensively used by the vagrant classes in reference to anything. Teeth were called "cracking" or "crunching *chetes*," swine "grunting *chetes*," a knife a "cutting *chete*," or the gallows a "hanging" or a "topping *chete*." To strike some *chete*, to steal something.

This word is used as an affix in the formation of names (Turner), and is equivalent, not to the gypsy *engro*, which means an active agent, but to *engree*, denoting "a thing." Thus *nab-chete*, a hat, literally a head-thing; a *cackling-chete*, chicken; *hearing-chetes*, ears. Possibly of Gypsy-Indian origin in common with the Anglo-Indian *chiz*, corrupted to *chitz*. *Chit* and *chitter* have also the meaning in gypsy of "a rag, a bit, a piece." It may, however, be derived from the root of *chattel;* M. E. *chatel*, property (also cattle); Old French *catel*. This would lead to the Low Latin *capitale* (Skeat), but there is possibly a different root in common with the Westmoreland *chat*, a fragment, *i.e.*, a thing or bit.

Chew (prison), a bit of tobacco.

A piece as large as a horse-bean, called a *chew*, is regarded as an equivalent for a twelve-ounce loaf and a meat ration.—*Greenwood: Gaol Birds at Large.*

(American), to *chew* oneself, expressing vexation.

Say, do you know it's fairly rank to be back at school. Could *chew* myself. I hate it so.—*Springfield Republican.*

Chewgah bag (Australian blackfellows), the wild bee's store of honey.

Chewing the cud (common), the habit of chewing tobacco. It is curious to note that amongst the farmers and stock-keepers of Surrey the *cud* is called a *quid*—hence perhaps "a *quid* of tobacco."

Chewing the rag or fat (army), grumbling.

Some of the "knowing blokes," prominent among whom will be the "grousers," will, in all probability, be *chewing the rag or fat.—Brunlees Patterson: Life in the Ranks.*

Chew it, to (cowboys), to eat.

Chic (society), elegant, dashing, perfect. French, *chic*. For the various significations of the French word, *vide* Barrère's "Argot and Slang."

One of the most *chic* functions of the present season in Paris was the dinner given last Wednesday by Princess Mathilde.—*The World.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Chice. *Vide* SHICE.

Chicken (Anglo-Indian), embroidery. *Chicken-walla*, a pedlar of embroidery. Persian, *chikin*, art needlework.

(Common), a term, applied to anything young, small, or insignificant; "*chicken* stakes," small paltry stakes (Hotten).

Chicken-butcher (old slang), a poulterer.

Chicken fixings (American). Bartlett defines this as chicken-fricassee, but it is often used to denote chickens prepared in any way. The common expression "corn-bread and common doins, or wheat-bread and *chicken-fixins*," intimates as much.

Chicken Nabob (old slang). If a man returned from India with a larger fortune than £50,000 or £60,000 he was called a *chicken nabob*.

Chickerleary cove (coster), an exceedingly sharp man.

Chi-ike (roughs), a street salute, a loud word of hearty praise, a cheer.

> Now join in a *chi-ike*—the
> Jolly we all like,
> I'm off with a party to the Vic.
> —*Vance: The Chickaleary Cove.*

Chi-iked (tailors), chaffed unmercifully.

Chik, chick (gypsy), dirt, clay, ashes, sand. *Chikkli covvas*, objects of earthenware. *Sār chikklo*, all dirty.

> "Beshdom adoi akonya,
> Te sār mán ásti dīkk
> Sas kālo mūllo wongur
> Te pāno, mūllo *chikk*"—

"I sat there alone, and all one could see was black dead coals, and white dead ashes."

—*O. Patteran.*

(Anglo-Indian), an abbreviation of *chickeen*, or four rupees.

Children's shoes (popular), to "make *children's shoes*," to be made nought of (Hotten).

Chill, to (popular), to warm. From the expression to "take the *chill* off;" "chilled beer" for warmed beer is a very usual term.

Chilo (pidgin-English), child.

> Ping-Wing, he pie-man son,
> He velly worst *chilo* allo Canton,
> He steal he mother picklum mice,
> An' thlowee cat in bilin rice.
> Hab chow-chow up, an' "Now," talk he,
> "My wonda' where he meeow-cat be!"
> —*The Song of Ping-Wing.*

Chimany, chummeny (gypsy), something, anything. *Dé mandy chomany*, "Give me something."

Chiming (thieves), praising a person or thing that is unworthy, for the purpose of getting off a bad bargain.

Chimleyco (popular), Pimlico.

> If you're stopping
> Down in Wapping,
> Rotten Row, or *Chimleyco*.
> —*Song: There's a lot of fun in London.*

Chimmel (tinker), a stick.

Chimmes (tinker), wood or stick. *Vide* CHIMMEL.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Chimney chops (old slang), a name given to a negro.

Chimney-pot (common), a silk hat.

An excellent life-preserver may be made in a few seconds in the following manner: Lay a silk handkerchief on the ground and spread it open. Then place on it, brim downwards, a hat of the "*chimney-pot* sort," and tie the four corners of it together over the crown of it. The article so prepared may then be thrown to the drowning person; or, better still, it may be taken to him by some one that can swim.—*Ross's Variety Paper.*

Chimney-sweep (common), a black draught.

Chin (American thieves), a child; probably an abbreviation of *kinchen.* (American), *to chin,* to chat.

He was a worker, and liked nothing better than to get into a circle of young cow-punchers and *chin* and josh with them.—*Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

(Gypsy), to cut or write. This suggests the Indian cutting or graving all letters on palm-leaves, &c. (Hindu, *chinh,* a scar.) *Chinamāngrī,* a letter.

Chinas (Stock Exchange), Eastern Extension Telegraph Shares.

China Street (thieves). According to Vaux, *China Street* is a cant name for Bow Street, Covent Garden—where the celebrated police court is situated.

Chinche, chints, a bug. The authors of the Anglo-Indian Glossary say that "this word is now quite obsolete both in India and England." But it has always been familiarly used as it now is in the United States, not as an euphemism, but as the correct original Spanish word. It is remarkable that "bug" was originally a figurative and perhaps polite term for *chinche.*

Chin-chin (pidgin-English), a term derived from the Mandarin (standard dialect) *ts'ing, ts'ing;* Cantonese, *ch'ing, ch'ing,* equivalent to "thank you," or a polite "adieu" or salutation. In pidgin it is used for worship, prayer, or to make a request.

Chin-chopper (popular), a blow under the chin.

Chine, choon, chen, chone (gypsy), the moon.

Chingarer, chingers (gypsy), sparks. Hindu, *chingi,* spark.

Chinger (gypsy), to tear, split, scold, or quarrel; through.

Chingerben (gypsy), contrary, opposite.

Chink (thieves), money.

At knock'emsdown and tiddlywink,
To be a sharp you must not shrink,
But be a brick and sport your *chink.*
—*The Leary Man.*

Chinkers (thieves), money.

Are men like us to be entrapped and sold,
And see no money down, Sir Hurly-Burly?
We're vile crossbow-men, and a knight are you,
But steel is steel, and flesh is still but flesh,
So let us see your *chinkers.*
—*Taylor: Philip Van Artevelde.*

Also handcuffs and shackles united by a chain.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Chin-music (English and American), talk, conversation.

"I am not," he said, "going to orate. You did not come here, I guess, to hear me pay out *chin-music*."—*The Golden Butterfly.*

(Common English), talking, speechifying.

But, bless yer, my bloater, it isn't all *chin-music*, votes and "'Ear, 'ear!"
Or they wouldn't catch me on the ready, or nail me for ninepence. No fear!
—*Punch.*

Also *chin* play.

Chinqua soldi (low theatrical), fivepence. From the Italian.

Chinse (Winchester College), a chance.

Chin-wag (common), officious impertinence (Hotten).

Chip (American journalism). Local items in newspapers are called *chips*, and sometimes the term is applied to the reporter who collects them. It was once suggested in a newspaper office in Philadelphia that the city reporters should be called "five-six," and the local editor, "seven-eight," in accordance with the well-known rhyme:—

Five, six—pick up *chips*;
Seven, eight—lay them straight.

(American), to *chip*, to understand.

I knew at once that they had got scared, and had trenched up like a bevy of quails; so I said to Jim, "Now you let me do the talking, when they begin to sing 'Indians'—don't you *chip*?"—*Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Chip in (American). Defined by Bartlett as meaning to contribute. He gives no etymology for the word. It has also another meaning, *i.e.*, to take shares in and contribute, as if ten men were all to *chip in* on any undertaking. Supposed to be derived from "chips," the counters which represent money in gambling. As implying concealment, in a slangy sense, it probably was something to the gypsy *chipper*, to hide; Hindu, *chipana. Tan chipánd*, to hide the body, *i.e.*, one's self.

Chipper (American), lively. Possibly from "chippernigns," "chip-muk," or "chip-munk," a proverbially lively little squirrel. (*Sicurus striatus*, or striped squirrel.)

Chippy (common), unwell.

He was *chippier* than ever after a jamboree of abnormal magnitude.—*Sporting Times.*

Chips (popular), money.

She admitted for me she might possibly care.
Chips, eh? I'm no mash for a tinker.
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Also a nickname for a carpenter.

Chiriclo (gypsy), a bird. *Romany chiriclo*, "the gypsy bird," *i.e.*, the water-wagtail. It is said that whenever one sees a water-wagtail he will soon after meet with gypsies. *Kālo chiriclo*, a blackbird or crow; sometimes pronounced *chillico.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Chirki, shirki (gypsy), a star. *Chirki* or *shirki*, a star in Romany, may possibly have something in common with the Persian *chirkh*, meaning the sky, or *chiragh*, a lamp.

Chirp, to (thieves and roughs), to talk.

I firmly resolved to *chirp*, when I was taken before the magistrate to give evidence, as little as possible.—*J. Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins.*

Also to inform.

Chirper (journalistic), a singer.

The gentle damsel informed the votive vocalist that she could not sleep at nights through thinking about burglars, and contemplated purchasing a revolver. "Don't be rash," said the *chirper*.—*Fun.*

Chirpy (American), cheerful, like a lark, in fact.

Chirruper (popular), an additional glass.

Chisel, to (common), properly to cut close as in a bargain, &c., to cheat in a small way; for instance, to try to sell second-hand or soiled goods for new ones. (Winchester College), to cheat; a *chisel*, a cheat.

Chit (Anglo-Indian), a letter, note, certificate, or pass. It is remarkable that for nearly a century different writers in India speak of the habit of writing notes on all occasions, as if every person in the country were a Micawber.

These incessant *chits* are an immense trouble, but the ladies seem to like them.—*Letters from Madras* (vide *Anglo-Indian Glossary*).

(Pidgin-English), same.

Empelo posha he name topside galantee *chit* (the Emperor wrote his name on a grand letter).—*The Woolly Hen.*

(Clubs), orders for drinks, &c., given at clubs.

Chitterlings (old), the shirt frills formerly fashionable.

Chitti (gypsy), nothing, trifling.

Chitty (tailors), an assistant cutter or trimmer.

Chitty-faced (popular), said of one who has a childish look, like a *chit* or infant.

Chiv (gypsy) to put, place, fix, throw. "*Chiv* lis adré"—"Put it in." "*Chiv* lis avrī"—"Throw it away." "Chivella o chiriclo adré lestis tan"—"She puts the bird into his cage" (*i.e.*, "tent"). To goad, chase, drive about. In this sense probably from *chiv*, a sharp-pointed knife or goad. Hence, the English slang word, to "chivy." "*Chiv* apré," to put or throw up.

(Tinker and Romany), a pointed knife. In gypsy generally a *churi*.

Beruna, gibel a *chiv* for the gentry cove.—*Disraeli: Venetia.*

Chive (thieves), a knife; from the gypsy to *chive*, to stab.

We had a fight and he put the *chive* into me.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Chive fencer (popular), a street seller of cheap cutlery.

Chivy (thieves), the face; to *chivy*, to scold.

Chlorhin (tinker), to hear.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Choakee. See CHOKEY.

Chocolate gale (nautical), a brisk N.W. wind off the West Indies and Spanish Main (Smyth).

Choke-jade (turf), a dip in the course at Newmarket a few hundred yards on the Cambridge side of the running gap in the Ditch.

Choke off, to (common), to get rid of.

"We are so terribly troubled with beggars. . . ." "Don't know how to *choke* 'em *off*, my dear? Why, give 'em pudding crust, cake, and dumplings of your own making to be sure."—*Fun.*

Choker (prison), a cell. *Vide* CHOKI.

There was not a spare potato but what he seized as soon as the dinner tins were put outside the door by the prisoners, and as a rule he was summarily marched off to *choker* for stealing food intended for Her Majesty's pigs. *Choker* had no terror for this Chancery barrister—he rather liked it. —*Evening News.*

Also a garotter. (Common), a cravat.

He looks when walking—pretty pet!
With gait still stiffer than his *choker*,
As if he'd swallowed for a bet,
Or by mistake, the kitchen poker.
—*Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday.*

"White-*choker*," a white tie.

We have what Mugford calls a *white-choker* dinner to-day.—*Thackeray: The Adventures of Philip.*

Also a clergyman.

Chokey (popular and thieves), prison. *Vide* CHOKI.

And didn't a bobby claw 'old on me . . . and gits me a week in *chokey*, cos he said I was a priggin'.—*H. Evans: The Brighton Beach Loafer.*

In prisons *chokey* refers specially to the punishment cell.

(Anglo-Indian), a chair.

Don't throw yourself back in your burra *chokey* and tell me it won't do.—*Warren Hastings to G. Vansittart.*

Also a police station, a custom or toll house. Hence watching or mounting guard is called *chokey.*

Choki, or **chokie**, the guard-room. The lock-up or prison for misconducted or drunken soldiers, which is part and parcel of the guard-house, and under the charge of the barrack guard; generally a dark, gruesome place, with no furniture but the guard bed, the "little soldat" of the French army, a standing wooden erection, fixed, and on a slope, with a raised wooden pillow at one end. It is the father of the plank bed, the only bed for short-term prisoners in modern prison discipline. *Choki* is Anglo-Hindustani, derived from *chank*, the market-place near the gate in which Orientals, like our mediævals, lodged their captives.

Chokidar (Anglo-Indian), a watchman; sometimes a police attendant.

Chokka (gypsy), shoe or boot. Hindu, *charka.*

Chokra, chuckoroo (Anglo-Indian), a boy, a youngster, especially one employed about a household, or a regiment.

NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF INDIA

Chone (gypsy), the moon. Also *chen.*

"Tu shan i *chone* odre o hev
Miri deari kāmeli rani,
Te waveri foki shan o bav
Kun gáv'la tut' fon mán 'y"—
"The moon which passes o'er the sky,
My darling, seems like thee,
And other folk are but the clouds
That hide thy face from me."

Chonkeys (popular), explained by quotation.

Chonkeys are a kind of mince-meat baked in crust.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

Choomer (gypsy), a kiss. Plural, *chūmya*, kisses.

"Si miri *chūmya* shan kushti to hā
Tu nasti hatch bockalo, deari ajā"—
"If kisses of mine were good to eat,
You shouldn't go hungry long, my sweet."

Choops (Anglo-Indian), keep silence; a corruption of *choo-praho.*

Chootah (Anglo-Indian), small, insignificant.

Chop (pidgin and Anglo-Indian), properly, a seal, stamp, or impression. Used to indicate quality, as in "first *chop*," *i.e.* stamped or branded, or marked as the best. Hindu, *ch'hāp.* It is used on the Eastern seas also for certificate, pass, license, signature. *Chop*-house, a custom-house.

Wang he go to fi'st *chop* coffin,
To be mand'lin an' chin-chin um!
—*Wang the Snob.*

Chop, to (turf), to beat. Essex dialect, *chop*, to flog. From *chop* or *chap*, to cut.

Another in John Dawson's stable is likely to be very handy here, and that one is Hawthorn, who created such a sensation when she *chopped* the mighty Salisbury at York the year before last.—*Sporting Times.*

(Sport), to outstrip, catch.

A certain meet where, after *chopping* their fox, poor Reynard's carcass was "pinched" by a Brummagem rough.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Chop-chop (pidgin), quick, quickly, make haste, look sharp. Cantonese, *kăp-kăp;* Mandarin, *kip-kip.* "In the Northern dialects *kwai-kwai*, quick, quick, is more usual" (Bishop Moule).

That nightey tim begin *chop-chop*,
One young man walkee, no can stop,
Maskee snow, maskee ice,
He cally flag wit' *chop* so nice—
Top-side galow!
—*Excelsior.*

Chopper, chopping blow (boxing), a short, downward blow with the knuckles, delivered from the elbow. One of the most clumsy, ineffective, and most easily parried blows that could be resorted to. It was nevertheless a favourite with Slack (champion, 1750–60).

Chopper on (printers). A man when miserable or "down in the dumps" is said to have a *chopper on.*

Choppy (American), applied to a broken, hillocky county.

Chops (popular), the mouth. A "wipe in the *chops*," a blow on the face; "down in the *chops*," sad. *Chops* is a nickname given

by schoolboys to one who has well-developed maxillaries.

Chōr, chār (gypsy), grass. Hindu, *chara*, fodder.

Chore (gypsy), a thief, to steal. "Kai did tute *chore* adovo?"—"Where did you steal that?" Hindu, *chor*, a thief.

Chores (American), odd jobs. A "choreman" is a handy man, a Jack of all trades.

Their carpenter was dead, and I am a handy man, so I took his place. Then I made a few dollars doing *chores* around.—*The Golden Butterfly.*

Choring (Scottish thieves), stealing. From the gypsy.

While outside the cells he heard . . . ask "What she was in for?" Maciver replied, "*Choring*, me and Maggie Devaney." He took that to mean stealing.—*Scottish Newspaper.*

Chōro (gypsy), poor; also *churero* and *chūridir*, poorer. "Mandy's a *churedo*"—"I am a poor man." This word is confused with *choredo*, one not of pure gypsy blood, and stolen; *e.g.*, *churedo* or *posh an' posh*, half and half, also a poor person.

"Oh, mandy shom *choro* te kālo;
Oh, mandy shom kek pensa rye"—
"Oh, I am poor and black;
Oh, I am not like a gentleman."
—*Gypsy Wooing.*

Chortle (popular), to howl.

Chota-hazry (Anglo-Indian), "little breakfast;" refreshment taken early in the morning, corresponding to the auroral mint julep or pre-prandial cocktail of Virginia. An ante-breakfast.

The small meal commonly known in India as *chota-hāziri*, and in our English colonies as Early Tea.—*Waring: Tropical Resident.*

Chouse (schools). It is a regular *chouse*, signifies it is a great shame.

The boy . . . was told that what he had done was an awful *chouse.*—*Brinsley Richards: Seven Years at Eton.*

(Common), to *chouse*, to cheat out of one's share or portion. Supposed to be derived from the Turkish *chiaous*, an interpreter, on account of a gross fraud committed by one on Turkish merchants in London.

Chout (East End, London), an entertainment (Hotten).

Chovey (costermongers), a shop.

Chovihani, chovihan (gypsy), a witch, a wizard. Hindu, *choihani*. "Miri diri bībī ma kamāra būtidīro tevel chovihani"—"My dear aunt, I would like to become a witch."

Chowdar (Anglo-Chinese), a fool.

Chow-chow (pidgin-English), to eat, or food of any kind. This is the chief definition, but the word is also specially applied to a kind of sweet preserve made of many things, and has thence been somewhat incorrectly taken to mean a medley of trifles of any kind. Also *chow-chow*, "to have a meal." In the Mandarin dialect *chi-fan*, showing that the

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

radical of the word means to eat, and not a mixture.

"Littee Jack Horna;
Makee sit inside corna,
Chow-chow he Clismas-pie;
He puttee inside t'um."

We ate *chow-chow* with chopsticks on the celestial restaurants.—*Mark Twain: Innocents at Home.*

The word *chow-chow* is suggestive especially to the Indian reader of a mixture of things good, bad, and indifferent; of sweet little oranges and bits of bamboo stick, slices of sugar-cane and rinds of unripe fruit, all concocted together . . . into a very tolerable confection.—*Bombay Quarterly Review*, 1858.

Chowing or chipping (theatrical), incessant talking, grumbling.

Christening (thieves), *christening* a watch is altering the name of maker and number.

Christians (Cambridge University), a name given to the members of Christ's College, Cambridge.

Chuck (Westminster School), a schoolboy's treat.

(Military), mealy bread. (Nautical), hard *chuck*, sea biscuit. (Popular), explained by quotation.

A labourer will term a fellow he dislikes "a beggar who eats *chuck*," *chuck* being a low-priced part of the carcase.—*Standard.*

Also bread and meat.

(Common), the *chuck*, turning out of doors, dismissal.

And I shall get the blooming *chuck* as well as fourteen days.—*Sporting Times.*

Chuck, to (popular), to eat.

Mo and his man were having a great breakfast one morning. . . . Mo exclaimed to his man, "*Chuck* rumbo (eat plenty) my lad."—*Hindley: Life and Adventures of a Cheap Jack.*

To turn out of doors, used specially in reference to drunken men forcibly ejected from public-houses.

There's one on 'em a-sitting next to me . . . let's *chuck* him.—*Sporting Times.*

To *chuck* or *chuck* up, to give up the game or attempt, from the custom of throwing up the sponge at a prize fight.

The rest of us can *chuck* up work indefinitely.—*Sporting Times.*

Chuck a fit, to (popular), to pretend to have a fit.

He suddenly tumbled across Stephens and Pascal's "Words and Music for Children of all Ages," and he nearly *chucked a fit* when he saw that No. 9, described as a drinking song, was called "Ginger Beer," and in praise of that fluid!—*Sporting Times.*

Chuck and toss (popular), tossing for halfpence.

They frequently had halfpence given to them. They played also at *chuck and toss* with the journeymen, and of course were stripped of every farthing.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

Chuck a stall, to (thieves), explained by quotation.

I said to my pal, "*Chuck me a stall* and I'll have that." What did I mean? Why, keep close to me, and cover what I'm doing.—*Greenwood: Seven Years' Penal Servitude.*

Chuck churches (old slang), those who dealt simoniacally in the sale of livings were so called.

Chucked (prison), acquitted or released. "7, or the chuck for

NATIONAL ARCHIVES INDIA

a clock," inscribed on a prison wall, meant that the writer expected seven years' penal servitude, if he was not acquitted, on the charge of stealing a watch.

Rit from 7 dials; remanded innocent on two charges of pokes, only out 2 weeks for a drag, expects to be fullied or else *chucked.—Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

(Popular), disappointed, thrown out, sold, reproved.

Chucked again, *chucked* again!
Whatever may happen I get all the blame.
Wherever I go, it is always the same—
Jolly well *chucked* again!
—Yardley: Chucked Again.

Chucked in, into the bargain.

Went to one on 'em yesterday, Charlie; a regular old up and down lark.
The Pallis free gratis, mixed up with a old country fair in a park,
And Rosherville gardens *chucked in.*
—Punch.

Chucked up (prison), discharged from jail.

When I was *chucked up* they took me to an old Jew's in Dudley Street for my clothes.—*Evening News.*

Chucker (cricketers), a bowler who throws the ball instead of bowling it. Also one who volunteers to play, and does not keep his promise.

(Common), *chucker*, or *chucker out*, a waiter or potman whose duty it is to turn drunkards out.

'Tis midnight—the *chucker* his duty has done;
In the gutter lies Liza—she's been in the "Sun."
—Sporting Times.

Used figuratively.

Lord Grey was about to resume his rôle of *chucker out* to the proposed measure of his own party.—*Punch.*

(Anglo-Indian), *chucker*, a quoit.

Chuck in (popular), to challenge; from the prize-fighting custom of throwing a cap into the ring. Nearly obsolete.

Chucking a curly (military), going sick without cause. To "chuck" a fit is a common slang expression for counterfeiting one, and the *curly* may be traceable to the contortions and convulsions of the supposed sufferer, who is all curled up as he lies writhing on the bed or floor.

Chucking a jolly (costermongers), ironically praising a greenhorn, or the goods of a comrade.

Chucking rocks (American), throwing stones.

Chuckle-head (popular), a man with a large head, a dunce.

Chuck-me-dos (bird fanciers), a variety of singing-bird, in imitation of its notes.

Talk about yer Middlesex rubbish, with their toll-loll-loll-kiss-me-dears; they don't touch yer reg'ler good *chuck-me-dos* by any number of chalks.—*J. Greenwood: 'In Strange Company.*

Chuck the dummy, to (thieves), to feign an epileptic attack or a fit. In prisons the expression applies to one who feigns an epileptic fit in order to be removed to the infirmary.

Chuff it (popular), be off.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Chull (Anglo-Indian), make haste. An abbreviation of the Hindostanee *chullo*, go along.

Chummage, chumming-up (old), a custom amongst prisoners before imprisonment for debt was abolished. When a fresh man was admitted to their number, rough music was made with poker, tongs, sticks, and saucepans. For this ovation the initiated prisoner had to pay (Hotten).

Chummy (popular), chimney-sweep. Also a low-crowned felt hat.

Chump (popular), for chum.

Fancy, old *chump*,
Me doing the sawdusty reglar, and follering swells on the stump.
—*Punch.*

A hard-headed fellow; the head. "Off his *chump*," insane.

Old gentleman *off his chump*—runs away.—*Sims: Social Kaleidoscope.*

(American), a *chump*, a fellow, chap.

We believe that he is the man to put on the turf with John L. with bare fists, and stop the big *chump's* noise.—*New York National Police Gazette.*

Chump of wood (rhyming slang), no good.

Chunk (streets), explained by quotation.

Here they gambol about like rabbits, until somebody raises the cry, "Nix! the *chunk*" (the slang term for School Board officer).—*Thor Fredur: Sketches from Shady Places.*

Chunks (American), large quantity.

Look here, pard, we've struck it this time; *chunks* of it!—*New York Star.*

Church, a term of endearment.

"My *church*," my dear!

(Thieves), to "*church* a yack," *vide* CHRISTENING.

Churched (common), married.

"If it were not for the women, I fear few churches would be wanted." "Of course not, there'd be no one to be *churched*."—*Sporting Times.*

Chu-shung (pidgin), Chinese *sheon-chu-shang*, "you little beast" or "animal." Often used jestingly in conversation with flower-boat girls.

She talkee, "Who men you come dis side? My pay you flog gum, *sheon-chu-shang*, you littee beasts—*san-ne-ko-tow*—my cuttee off your head!"—*The Little Wife.*

Chuzzle, to (popular), cheat, circumvent.

Cig (American), a cigar.

Dancing the jig,
Every fellow with a *cig*,
And a *cig* of confounded bad tobacco.
—*Broadside.*

Cinch (American), to subdue, get the better of, extort, impose upon.

My father is wealthy, and I think I can *cinch* him for five hundred dollars.—*Denver Republican.*

(Thieves), to put the screw on any one.

Cincinnati olives (American), pigs, because a large quantity of olive oil is manufactured out of Cincinnati lard.

Cinder (common), a dram of spirits mixed with seltzer or

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

soda water. (Sporting), the *cinder*, the running path.

At Lords' wickets, or Lilley Bridge *cinder.—Funny Folks.*

Cinder grabber (popular), a servant maid.

Circumbendibus (common), in a roundabout way. A long yarn.

Circus cuss (thieves), circus rider.

City college (thieves), Newgate prison.

Civil rig (beggars), a trick of beggars to obtain alms by over civility.

Civvies (army), a suit of *civvies*, *i.e.*, civilian's clothes.

Clack (popular), the tongue, speech; to *clack*, to talk idly, to chatter.

Clack box (common), a garrulous person.

Clacker (popular), talk, chatter, also pudding or pie crust.

I hope we've got plenty of *clacker* for Christmas if we haven't got anything else. *—Rare Bits.*

Clack-loft (popular), a pulpit.

Cladder (old), a male flirt.

Claggum (popular), boiled treacle hardened. From "clog."

Claim (Australian and American), a miner's allotment.

The hill is systematically honey-combed with *claims* old and new.—*L. Work: Australian Printers' Keepsake.*

(Thieves), to *claim*, to steal.

Clam butcher (American), a man who opens *clams*.

Clank (thieves and tramps), a tankard.

Tip me the *clank*, like a timber-mort as you are.—*Disraeli: Venetia.*

Clanker (old cant), silver plate.

Clapper (popular), the tongue; more especially that of a loquacious person.

Clapper-dudgeon (old cant), a beggar born.

Claras (Stock Exchange), Caledonian Railway stock.

For we have our Sarahs and *Claras*,
Our Noras and Doras for fays.
—Atkin: House Scraps.

Claret (pugilistic), a term which has become general for blood.

If you spill
One drop of his *claret* that's not in your bill,
I'll hang you. By jingo! I will
—Ingoldsby Legends.

To tap the *claret*, to draw blood.

Claret-jug (pugilistic), now common for the nose.

What, oh what's the meaning of that chappie's blackened eyes?
On his *claret-jug*, I ask you, what's that variegated rise?
—Bird o' Freedom.

Classy, clashy (Anglo-Indian), a common sort of person, a tent-pitcher, a chain-bearer.

Claw (prison), a lash of the cat-o'-nine tails.

Oh! cuss that old Kerr, who condemned me to twenty-five *claws* with the cat. *—Greenwood: A Night in a Workhouse.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Claw-hammer (common), dress coat. In French slang, *queue de pie*, or *sifflet*.

The black *claw-hammer* coat was generally worn.—*Standard.*

Claws for breakfast (prison), a humorous expression for the infliction of the cat, which usually takes place in the morning.

. . . A ruffian being uncertain as to the morning when he is to have, as he himself would say, *claws for breakfast*, is in the habit of lying night after night in a sweat of terror.—*Greenwood: In Strange Company.*

Clean (thieves), expert, smart. In French, *un soldat propre* is a smart soldier.

Clean out, to (common), to take or win all one has; to ruin.

Ah! . . . he has *cleaned me out*, but I can go and earn some more when I like.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Clean skin (Australian), the term for unbranded and wild-bred cattle which have escaped to the scrubs.

In such a country it was perfectly hopeless to dream of getting any of the *clean skins* home to the yards.—*Finch Hatton: Advance Australia.*

Clean straw (Winchester College), clean sheets. Formerly the beds had a straw mattress, hence the expression.

Clean the slate, to (popular), to pay off all debts.

And everything comes right some day.
Though "thirty-five per cent." is hot,
'Tis cheap when pa pays all the shot!
Let hatter, tailor, fellahs wait,
A wife with cash will *clean the slate.*
—*Ballad: Tra la la.*

Clear (thieves), drunk.

Clear crystal (popular), spirits generally, but more correctly probably gin or whisky only.

Cleave (old slang), one that will *cleave* is said of wanton and forward women, such as would throw themselves at a man without waiting for favour to be asked of them.

Clerked (old), imposed upon.

Clerk's blood (old), red ink. A common expression of Charles Lamb's.

Clever-shins (schools), a sly fellow.

Cleymans (old cant), artificial sores made by beggars to impose upon people.

Click (popular), a blow; to *click*, to snatch.

Clicks in the gob, blows on the mouth.

. . . What with clouts on the nob,
Home hits in the bread basket, *clicks* in the gob.
—*Moore: Tom Crib's Memorial.*

Clicker (printing), a person in a printing-office who is at the head of a certain number of compositors for a particular division of work or otherwise. It is also used in the shoemaking trade. (Trade), a female touter at a bonnet-shop, or the servant of a salesman who stands at the door. (Popular), a knock-down blow.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Clift, to (thieves), to steal.

Clinch (popular and thieves), to get the *clinch*, to be imprisoned.

Clincher (general), a settler.

Clink (military), another term for guard-house, derived evidently from the *Clink*, one of the ancient London prisons, that of Westminster. Sir Walter Scott, in "Peveril of the Peak," makes Jem *Clink* one of the warders in Newgate.

(Thieves), plate.

He wouldn't have been hobbled but the melting-pot receiver proved his selling the *clink* to him.—*G. Parker: Variegated Characters.*

Clinker, (common), any thing or person that is first-rate, equivalent to a "stunner."

The yellow-haired girl at the bar. A *clinker*, ain't she? gave me these (cigars), and they are 'orrid bad.—*Ward or Wife.*

(Thieves), a chain.

Clinkerum (old), the gaol. From the old prison called the "Clink."

Clink-rig (thieves), stealing tankards from public-houses.

Clipper (general), something very good, very fast, above the average. Derived from the swift-sailing ships called opium and tea *clippers*.

There must be a new horse bought, not a knacker's sort of horse, mind yer, but a regler *clipper;* a chestnut; goes like steam, Sam ses it do."—*J. Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins.*

Clipping (general), excellent. A "*clipping* ball," a "*clipping* good chap." *Vide* CLIPPER.

Clishpen (tinker), to break by letting fall.

Clisp (tinker), to fall; let fall.

Cloak-twitchers (old cant), thieves who robbed passers-by of their cloaks. The old French *tire-laine.*

Clobber (popular and thieves), clothes. A corruption of that word, with a change of syllable.

If you are hard up always tell the dear things that you are a gentleman's valet. This will account for your good *clobber.*—*Sporting Times.*

Next morning I got up about seven, and went home to change my *clobber*, and put on the old *clobber* to work with the kipsy.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Clobbered up (popular and vulgar), dressed up.

"D'you know, if you were *clobbered up* I shouldn't mind taking you out?" She promised to be presentable. In her own words, she said, "I'll come *clobbered up* like a dukess."—*Fun.*

(Theatrical), patched up; shabby-genteel get up.

Clock (English and American), a watch.

When you have the *clock* safe in your hand, break the little ring that holds it to the chain, using both hands to do it, and then drop the sucker (victim) into his chair (seat) again, and say, "Wait here till I bring you a cab."—*Philadelphia Press.*

Clock-calm (nautical), perfect calm.

Clod-crushers (American), an epithet used by Americans to describe the large feet which they believe to be the characteristics of Englishwomen as

compared with those of their own country, an opinion shared by other foreign critics as well; but in reality the question is one that rests wholly on the art of the shoemaker, and it is a fact that English ladies of fashion (who generally show greater regard for the appearance of their nether extremity, from the garter downward, than their more humble and plain sisters usually do) can favourably compare, in that respect at least, with any of the dainty, neat-ankled, light-tripping ones of New York or Paris. At any rate they take more wholesome exercise in the fresh air, and if they fail to satisfy to the same extent the eye of the artist or the voluptuary, they are able to walk greater distances without groaning at every step, and decidedly have the advantage at "crushing clods."

(Common), large feet.

Cloister-roush (Winchester College). Formerly in cloister-time two halves of the school used to rush from the ends of the school at each other. To run "cloisters": when a man in junior part is put into senior part without passing through the middle one he is said to "run cloisters."

Clothes, coloured (army), plain clothes as distinguished from uniform. More particularly in the infantry; and the expression "coloured" is probably ironical, plain clothes, or mufti, being as a rule less strongly coloured than the crimson livery of the Queen. The expression has official sanction, however, and is often used at courts-martial, when a prisoner is charged with having "absented himself without leave, until apprehended in 'coloured clothes,'" &c. &c.—out of uniform, that is to say.

Clothes-pin (American), that's the sort of *clothes-pin* I am, *i.e.*, that's the sort of man I am.

Cloth-market (old), a term for a bed, quaint but not slang.

Miss, your slave; I hope your early rising will do you no harm: I find you are but just come out of the *cloth-market.*—*Swift: Polite Conversation.*

An old French corresponding term is *halle aux draps.*

Cloud-cleaner (nautical), an imaginary sail carried by a Yankee bottom.

Clout (common), a blow. A "*clout* in the chops," a blow on the face. (Thieves), a pocket-handkerchief.

Clouting (thieves), stealing handkerchiefs.

Clow (Winchester College), a box on the ears; to *clow*, to box one's ears.

Clower (old cant), possibly allied to the Gaelic *cliah*, a basket; termed "kipsy" by English thieves.

Cloyer (old cant), one who attempted to share in the profits

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

of a robbery or a swindle in which he bore no part.

Then there's a *cloyer* or snap, that dogs any new brother in the trade, and snaps; and will have half in any booty.—*Roaring Girl: Sixteenth Century.*

Club, to (military), to get a party of men or troops into a confused mass through a blunder when manœuvring.

Cly (thieves), pocket.

To his *clies* my hooks I throw in, and collar his dragons clear away.—*W. Maginn: Vidocq's Slang Song.*

Old cant, *clye*, to take, to seize, from old English *cleyes*, claws. *Cly* is provincial for money. To take, steal; money, pocket seem to be interchangeable terms in various slang languages.

Cly in old cant had also the signification of sack, basket, possibly from Gaelic *cliah*, basket.

Clye, cly, to (old cant), to take, to seize.

Gerry gan, the ruffian *clye* thee.—*T. Harman: Caveat.*

To *cly* off, to carry away.

Here safe in our skipper let's *cly* off our peck,
And bowse in defiance o' th' Harman-beck.
—*Broome: Jovial Crew.*

Also *cly*, to steal.

Cly-faker (thieves), a pickpocket.

They were gentlemen sharpers, and not vulgar cracksmen and *cly-fakers*.—*Lytton: Pelham.*

This may be from *cly*, a pocket, as suggested, but it is worth noting that in Dutch thieves' slang, *kleifokker* is a thief who wanders about, derived from *fokker*, one who goes about, and *kleif*, silver. *Vide* CLY.

Cly-faking (thieves), picking pockets. *Vide* FAKE.

"What is *cly-faking?*" . . . "Why, a prigging of wipes, and sneeze-boxes, and ridicules, and such."—*H. Kingsley: Ravenshoe.*

Cly the jerk, to (old cant), to stand in the pillory.

Coach (university and public school), the private tutor by whose aid a student is "driven" through his examination at the university. It is now no longer peculiar to the university.

He was a student at Christ Church and a Fellow of Merton, and in early life was a very successful *coach* at Oxford.—*The World.*

A tutor not connected with a college is sometimes termed a "rural *coach*."

(General and sport), to *coach*, to instruct, to "drive," to prepare a man for an examination; a word which has now almost attained to a recognised place in the language.

I *coached* him before he got his scholarship; he ought to have taken honours before Easter, but he was ill.—*G. Eliot: Deronda.*

Also to instruct in physical acquirements, such as boating, &c.

He had already been down several times in pair-oar and four-oar boats, with an old oar to pull stroke, and another to steer and *coach* the young idea.—*T. Hughes: Tom Brown at Oxford.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Coaching (common), instructing. An almost recognised word.

There is no sport which is healthier . . . than rowing under proper *coaching* and supervision.—*Standard.*

(Rugby), a flogging.

Coach-wheel (popular and thieves), a crown piece; French slang *roue de derrière.*

Coal, cole (common), money; "post the *cole*," put down the money.

Coaling (theatrical), a *coaling* part, a part which is popular with the audience—one which elicits great applause; *coaling* lines, telling speeches.

It was customary some years ago, when a young actor achieved a success in a part of this character, for some ancient idiot to put a piece of coal in the youngster's dressing-place. One fails to see the fun of this.

Hotten says *coaling*, profitable, very good, is derived from *coal*, money.

Coals (common), to "pull over the *coals*," to scold. (Nautical), to "take one's *coals* in," to catch a venereal disease.

Coal-scuttle (American), a nickname for the peculiar bonnet worn by Quakeresses, which was exactly the shape of an old-fashioned coal-scuttle. Some years ago coal-scuttle bonnets were worn in England. *Vide* Leech's sketches.

There was Miss Snevellici . . . glancing from the depths of her *coal-scuttle* bonnet at Nicholas.—*Dickens: Nicholas Nickleby.*

Cob (popular), a piece of bread baked in a round form for dinner.

(English prisons), a dark punishment cell.

Cob, to (schoolboys), to catch or detect. *Cob* is probably a corruption of the cant word "cop," from the gypsy *kap.*

(Popular), to deceive, humbug.

Cobble-colter (tramps and gypsies), a turkey.

Come, old mort, tout the *cobble-colter.* . . . And Beruna, flick the panam.—*Disraeli: Venetia.*

Cobbled (schoolboys), caught or detected. *Cobbled* is a variation of "cobbed." *Vide* To Cob.

Cobbler (Australian shearers' slang), the last sheep. This term is very widely spread in Victoria. It is a pun of the shearers. The *cobbler* is the man with the *last*, and therefore they call the *last* sheep the *cobbler.*

Cochineal dye (pugilistic), blood.

He would kindly inquire of one gentleman, "What d'ye ask for a pint of your *cochineal dye?*"—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Cock (racing), "a *cock* horse," properly a child's rocking-horse, is a horse kept in the betting quotations to deceive public backers, though known to the private layers against him that he has no chance of winning.

(Tailors), a good *cock*, one who thoroughly understands how a garment should be made. A poor *cock*, the reverse.

(Thieves), an abbreviation of "cockney."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(Pugilistic), a man knocked out of time; used in the phrase "knocked him a *cock*." From the expression "to knock into a cocked hat."

(Printers), *vide* JEFF and THROW. When throwing or jeffing, should one or more of the nine quadrats not fall flat, but lodge crosswise on another, it is termed a *cock*, and the thrower is allowed another turn or chance.

(Popular), to *cock*, to smoke (Hotten).

Cock a ball, to (cricketers), to throw a ball under-handed.

Cock-a-brass (old cant), a confederate of card-sharpers who remains outside the public-house where they are operating. When they have left, *cock-a-brass* protects their retreat by misleading statements to the victim on the direction taken by them.

Cock-a-hoop (common), in high spirits; alluding to a victorious cock crowing. This is borne out by the French, "se dresser sur ses ergots," to be elated or to look proud and defiant.

Cock and hen club (common), a free and easy gathering where persons of both sexes are admitted. One composed exclusively of males is a "stag party," whereas a gathering of females who do congregate for the purpose of drinking tea and gossiping is termed a "cat party."

Cock and pinch. The old beaver hat cocked back and front, and pinched at the sides.

Cockatoo (Australian up-country). Also *cockatoo* farmer or settler, a small settler. Sometimes termed *cocky*. So called to compare them with the common sulphur-crested white *cockatoos*, which come down on the newly sown cornfields in myriads.

The *cockatoo* settlers or free selectors fight desperately for the privilege of picking out any piece of land they may fancy. —*Grant: Bush Life in Queensland.*

A *cockatoo* fence is one on a *cockatoo's* farm.

The trees themselves, . . . woven with their branches into the stout *cockatoo* fence. — *Blackwood's Magazine: C. T., Impressions of Australia.*

Cocked hat (common), "knocked into a *cocked hat*," completely beaten, smashed, out of shape.

Cocked his toes (thieves), dead.

Cocked it (tailors), examined it, saw it, spoke of it.

Cocker (low), my *cocker*, my good fellow.

"I'm on, my *cocker*," I sez. "Giv' us your 'and on it, my pippin, and arf a quid on account."—*H. Evans: The Brighton Beach Loafer.*

Cock-eye (popular), one who squints.

Cockles (popular), more a vulgarism than slang. Literally the wrinkles.

In Bermondsey not long ago there lived a little dame;
She was the *cockles* of my heart, and Nancy was her name.
—*Nancy Fancied a Soldier.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Cockneyshire (tailors), London.

Cock-quean, a female cuckold, or a wife whose husband goes with other women. A beggar or cheat (Wright).

Queene June, not a little wroth against her husband's crime,
By whome she was a *cock-quean* made.
—*Warner: Albion's England.*

Cockrobin shop (printers), a small printing-office where common work is done, and where labour is badly paid for, is usually described as such. From the fact that some cheap printers were noted for the issue of fly-leaves, on which were printed stories, such as the "Death of Cock Robin."

Cocks (common publishing slang). According to Hotten, "fictitious narratives in verse or prose of murders, terrible accidents, &c." They are the topical legends of the street. The suggestion that the term is derived from a "cooked" statement is very far-fetched; that it came from a "*cock* and bull story" is at least ingenious. It is possible, though not proved, that, as these narratives were originally chiefly sung in a dull chant, the proverbially wearisome and monotonous songster, the cuckoo, gave the original name to these *cock*-minstrels and their wares. The Dutch say of such a vocalist, "Hy zingt den Koekeeks zang," he sings the cuckoo's song—"he harps always upon the same string."

(Pugilistic), blows.

Cock-sure (popular), certain, confident. Probably an abbreviation of "cocky-sure," *i.e.*, confident, as a "cocky" fellow. It has been suggested that the origin ought to be sought in the old practice of cock-throwing. Shakespeare uses the expression in the sense of "sure as the *cock* of a fire-lock."

We steal as in a castle, *cock-sure*. . . .
We walk invisible.—*Henry IV.*

Cock-up (printers), a term for superior letters or figures, such as used for abbreviations, *i.e.* "Mr." or "A^1," &c.

Cocky (common), saucy.

Cocky. *Vide* COCKATOO.

Cocoa-nut (common), the head. French slang, *le coco.*

Cocum (common London slang, also Yiddish). In Hebrew *chochum*, *chochem*, or *cochem*, crafty, learned, wise, or a wise man. According to Hotten the English slang term means shrewdness, ability, luck. "Jack's got *cocum*," he's safe to get on. Among themselves German thieves call one another by this name. Mr. Hotten does not recognise any Hebrew origin for the word, and suggests that it is "allied to the Scottish *keek* and German *gucken*, to peep or pry into." In Yiddish *cochemer* or *cochem*, pronounced almost like *cocum*, means wisdom; *cochum-wirth*, a thieves' landlord; *cochmas Schlaumauch*, the wisdom of Solomon.

NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF INDIA

"Wie grau seinen deine werk, got, ale hastu gemacht mit *chochmah*, die welt is vul deine akufte, du hast sei beschafen."—*Polish-German Yiddish Translation of the 104th Psalm, cited by Grünbaum.*

(Theatrical), wariness, to "fight *cocum*," to be cautious.

(Booksellers), a sliding scale of profit in the book trade in cases where the books are not marked, according to your customer.

Cod (popular), a fool; to *cod*, to chaff, hoax. An idiom imported from the sister isle.

She threw a plaice right in my face,
And told me to depart.
I thought that she was *codding* me,
And told her I should stop.
She lifted up her lovely foot,
And kicked me out of the shop.
—*Barrett: Old Jones's Gal.*

(Thieves), a purse. Gaelic *cod*, a bag.

(Tailors), a drunkard; on the *cod*, drinking and neglecting work. From *coddle*, a provincialism for to indulge.

Codd (Charterhouse), probably from codger, an old pensioner.

Yonder sit some threescore old gentlemen, pensioners of the hospital, . . . the Cistercian lads called these old gentlemen *codds*.—*Thackeray: The Newcomes.*

Codding (Irish schoolboys), nonsense, humbug, chaff.

Coddom (popular), explained by quotation.

The convicts take advantage of that to the extent sometimes of playing a gambling game called *coddom*. It is simple enough. They play three or four a side, the implement being a button or a peculiar-shaped small piece of stone, "guess whose hand it is in" being the principle. —*J. Greenwood: Seven Years' Penal Servitude.*

Hotten gives "*coddam*, a public-house game, much affected by medical students and cabmen."

Codging job (tailors), a garment to repair.

Cofe (old cant), fellow.

What, stowe your bene, *cofe*.—*T. Harman: Caveat.*

Coffee-mill (common). The mouth is so termed, but the phrase is rarely heard now, having given place to others.

(American), explained by quotation.

One of the old-pattern Colts, with the barrels revolving; the ancient *coffee-mill* or "pepper-box."—*H. L. Williams: Buffalo Bill.*

French slang has *moulin à café* for a mitrailleuse.

Coffee-shop (popular), the W.C. Also a coffin.

Coffin-ships (nautical), any leaky cranky unseaworthy vessels.

Cog (old cant), a tooth. (Sharpers), to *cog*, to cheat at dice. (Schools), to cheat at examinations by using cribs or other sources of information. A perfectly recognised word in the sense of deceive, cheat generally; hence *cogs*, loaded dice.

Coge, or coag it, to (American), according to Bartlett, refers to the habitual and excessive use of ardent spirits. *Cogue*, to drink

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

drams (Wright). From provincial English *cogue*, a dram.

Coguing the nose (nautical), making comfortable over hot negus or grog. From provincial English *cogue*, a dram.

Coker. *Vide* CLANKER.

Cold blood, a house licensed for the sale of beer "not to be drunk on the premises" (Hotten).

Cold coffee (common), misfortune. (Oxford), a trumpery affair.

Cold comfort (traders), said of articles sent out on approval and returned.

Cold cook (popular), an undertaker (Hotten).

Cold deck (American), a prepared pack of cards, played on a green board.

Cold meat (popular), a corpse.

Cold meat box (popular), a coffin.

Cold pig (popular), a dash of cold water to waken an indolent servant or lazy person in the morning.

He never threw cold water over her when she was in bed. Mr. Justice remarked that no doubt many of them knew what *cold pig* was!—*Daily News.*

(Thieves), a person who has been robbed of his clothing. A corpse.

(Commercial), returned goods.

Cold shake (American), a cold period of weather, also used sometimes in reference to fever and ague. As a figure of speech it is applied to cold and reserved conduct. "It gives me the *cold shakes* just to look at her—she's so frozen up an' dignerfied."

Cold tea (common), brandy. In use also during the last century. The *Spectator*, *Tatler*, and *Guardian* often allude to a "keg" of *cold tea.*

Cold thing (American cadet), to have a *cold thing*, to have a certainty, to be entirely confident of anything.

Cold water army (common), a facetious name given to the fraternity of teetotallers.

An old stager was compelled by his worthy spouse to join the *cold water army*, which he did, promising not to touch a drop of anything except in sickness. He has never been well since.—*Diprose: Modern Joe Miller.*

Cold without (common), spirits with cold water and without sugar.

I laugh at fame. Fame, sir! not worth a glass of *cold without.—Lytton: My Novel.*

Cole (popular), money. *Vide* COAL.

Moreover, the whole of the said cash or *cole*
Shall be spent for the good of the old woman's soule.
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Colfabis, a Latinized Irish phrase, signifying the closet of decency, applied as a slang term to a place of resort in Trinity College, Dublin.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Colinderies (society), modern term for the Colonial Exhibition, used as an abbreviation.

Colla, cullo (gypsy), a thing, things. "Chiv yer *cullos* adre the wardo"—"Pitch your things into the waggon!"

Collar (common), "out of *collar*," out of cash, not in training; a phrase borrowed from the stable. Also out of work.

A decent allowance made to seedy swells, head robbers, and flunkeys out of *collar*. (Slang advertisement.)

To *collar*, to seize, to steal. (Thieves), "to *collar* his dragons," to steal his sovereigns.

Collar day (old), hanging day.

Collaring the big bird (theatrical), getting hissed. An allusion to a goose's mode of expressing angry dissatisfaction.

Collar work (common), hard work; an uphill journey.

And when Lucca was reached there were still fourteen miles, nearly all *collar work*, between that and the baths.—*Trollope: What I Remember.*

Collector (old cant), a street robber.

Colleger (University and schools), the square cap worn by university men, or by boys at public and other schools.

Colley (theatrical). Actors and others connected with the stage speak of the columbine as *colley*.

Colly-wobbles (popular), rumblings in the intestines; the belly-ache. A probable origin is colic-*wobbles*, the latter word from to *wobble*, *i.e.*, to shake from side to side. But it should be noted that *colly* is a provincialism for anything irregular, uneven, wrong.

Colo (pidgin), cold.

Hab lib in *colo* land,
Hab stop where we belong,
What tim much solly in-i-sy (*inside*, in her heart),
She makee dis sing song.
—*The Princess in Tartary.*

Colonial (Australian and American), unsettled, because in the early days of the colonies men dressed and behaved unconventionally, and life and property were by no means so secure as they are now. Also rude, rough, ungainly, awkward, used in this sense more in England than in Australia. An Englishman will say very or thoroughly *colonial* in a contemptuous way.

Colours (prize ring), the handkerchiefs, displaying some definite colour or pattern, chosen by prize-fighters as their distinguishing badges on the day of a contest. The third "rule of the ring," as revised by the Pugilistic Association, lays down:—"That every man shall be provided with a handkerchief of a colour suitable to his own fancy, and that the seconds proceed to entwine these handkerchiefs at the upper end of one of the centre stakes of the ring; that these handkerchiefs shall be called the *colours*, and

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

that the winner of the battle at its conclusion shall be entitled to their possession as the trophy of victory."

There was, among the greater favourites, the "bird-eye" wipe, the wipe or handkerchief of any colour with spots, but generally with white ground and blue spots; the "blood-red fancy," all red; the "yellow man," all yellow; the "yellow fancy," yellow with white spots; the "cream fancy," with coloured pattern on a white ground; the "blue Billy," with a white pattern on a blue ground; and many more. Among the *colours* specially associated with the names of pugilists are the "Belcher" (*Jem*, the champion), dark blue ground with a spot in the middle of darker hue, and large white spots; the "Randal's man," green, with white spots; "King's man," green, with yellow pattern.

(Australian miners), originally the gold visible after washing, either good or poor *colour*, as the case may be, but the expression is generally used that there is just enough to show the presence of gold.

Colquarron (old cant), a person's neck. From *cole*, Anglo-Norman for neck, and *quarron*, cant for body. *Vide* QUARRON.

Colt, a juryman at his début; properly a person without experience. (Cricketers), a young inexperienced player, a professional at his first season. (Thieves), a young thief. (Popular), to *colt*, to make one pay for his footing. Hotten gives the definition "to make a person free of a place, which is done by his standing treat, and submitting to be struck on the sole of the foot with a piece of board." This is a relic of the old London 'prentice days, when it was an exaction of money, usually spent in ale, termed *colt* ale, paid by an apprentice at the commencement and expiration of his apprenticeship.

Colt-man (American), a man who keeps horses specially for burglars.

Columbine (theatrical), a prostitute.

Columbus (theatrical). One would have thought that this illustrious navigator would naturally be associated with some new and successful discovery, nevertheless a "regular *Columbus*" is synonymous with hopeless "frost," or utter failure.

Comb-brush (old), a lady's maid.

The maid who at present attended on Sophia was recommended by Lady Bellaston, with whom she had lived for some time in the capacity of a *comb-brush*.—*Fielding: Tom Jones.*

Comb-cut (common), mortified, like a cock disgraced by the deprivation of his comb.

Comb down, to (Australian), to ill-treat, thrash. Like the French "donner une peignée."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

. . . Narrating how he had copped the old —— on the hop and *combed* him *down* to rights.—*A. C. Grant.*

Combing the cat (nautical), the boatswain, or other operator, running his fingers through the cat-o'-nine-tails to separate them (Smyth).

Comb the hair, to (common), to scold; French "laver la tête."

The process called *combing his hair* for him is said not to be uncommon in married circles.—*Globe.*

Come down to (common), to pay.

Do you keep the gentleman in discourse while I speak to the prisoner and see how he can *come down.*—*Johnston: Chrystal.*

Come it over, to (popular), to deceive by wheedling, to rule by assumption of superiority or otherwise.

Don't try to *come it over* me like your sister *comes it over* you.—*Greenwood: Almost Lost.*

Come it, to (thieves), to inform; also to be quiet.

He heard one of the others say in reply, "*Come it,*" meaning to tell—to be quiet.—*Daily Telegraph.*

(Pugilistic), to show fear.

Come on (turf), said of a horse that has improved, is in good form.

He was at one time last year a few pounds in front of ——, and if he has *come on*, that form would give him a considerable charm.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Come souse, to (pugilistic), to fall.

As it was, Master Georgy *came souse* with the whack,
And there sprawled, like a turtle turned queer on its back.
—*Tom Cribb's Memorial to Congress.*

Come this-side (pidgin-English), arrived here. "Just now hab got two piecee joss-house man *come this-side.*"

Come, to (popular), to practise, to understand.

We ain't two by ourselves as *comes* that dodge.—*Greenwood: Tag, Rag, & Co.*

Comical (popular), a napkin.

Coming it at the broads (card-sharpers), explained by quotation.

People whose education has been neglected might possibly have failed to understand that *coming it at the broads* or at the box meant in common parlance playing cards or dice.—*The Bat.*

Coming it strong (popular), carrying things to an unreasonable degree; exaggerating.

He here shook his head—right little he said,
But he thought she was *coming it* rather too *strong.*
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Coming the old soldier (popular), to trick one by false representations, such as are made by a rogue who pretends to be an *old soldier.*

Permit me, if you and your two friends think of *coming* what is vulgarly called *the old soldier* over me, to make you understand that you had better abandon the intention.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

Commission (old cant), a shirt; Italian, *camicia.* In more modern slang a "mish."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Clean linen yields a shirt before we rise,
Which is a garment shifting in condition;
And in the canting tongue is a *commission*.
—*Taylor's Works.*

Commister. *Vide* CAMISTER.

Common bounce (prison), one who makes accusations of unnatural crime, employing lads as decoys.

To do most professional thieves justice, they never speak of these unique wretches except in terms the most contemptible.—*Michael Davitt: Leaves from a Prison Diary.*

Common doings (Americanism), plain, wholesome fare, as distinguished from dainties.

Commoner (old cant), a novice; greenhorn.

Commoner grub (Winchester College), a dinner given by college to commoners when cricket matches are over.

Commonise, to (Oxford University). Two or more are said to *commonise* when they have their meals together. *Commonising* means strictly that each should bring his "commons."

Common jack (army), low prostitutes are thus termed by the military in Woolwich, and probably in other garrison towns.

Common plugs (American), the common rut of mankind—the *οἱ πολλοί*—sometimes the great unwashed, but more commonly very ordinary people indeed, neither the big-wigs nor the dregs of society.

Many will meet us in the depths of the forest and go away thinking that we are just *common plugs*, of whom the world wots not; but there is where they fool themselves.—*New York Mercury.*

Communicator. Agitate the *communicator*, ring the bell.

Communion bloke (prison), a religious hypocrite.

He was a *communion bloke*. This was the pious gentleman.—*Evening News.*

Comp. (printers). *Vide* GALLEY-SLAVES. Generally applied to compositors as an abbreviation, but originally the short term for companion used both by pressmen, who work in pairs, and by compositors who work in companionships; nowadays accepted as the abridgment of compositor only.

Comped (printers), set up or composed matter; abbreviation of word composed.

Competition wallah (Anglo-Indian), members of the Civil Service who have entered it by the competitive system.

The *competition wallah* . . . dins perpetually in our ears the greatness of India.—*Saturday Review.*

Compo. (printers), abbreviation for the composition of which printing rollers are made—principally of treacle and glue. (Nautical), a sailor's monthly wages.

Compradore (pidgin), from the Portuguese *comprador*, a purchaser. Formerly used in India, where it originated, now in general use only in Chinese-English. The *comprador* of the

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

present day is a steward or butler, who manages all the household affairs, supplying by contract, not only furniture and provisions, but even servants.

An' Massa Coe feel velly sore,
An' go an' scold he *compladore;*
An' *compladore* all hollor shook,
Lun dunny stairs an' bang he cook.
—*Mary Coe.*

Compresado (gypsies), an informer.

Con (Winchester), from *κονδυλον*, a knuckle—a blow on the head given by the knuckles or any hard substance.

Concaves and **convexes** (card-sharpers), cards cut in a particular way, and thus contrived for cheating.

Conchers (up-country Australian), tame or quiet cattle.

Condog (popular), to agree with. A variation from concur.

Confab (society), conversation, generally of a private nature.

Confederate (Texas), "you're mighty *confederate*," a phrase used by a Texan when he wishes to express the strongest possible approval of some sentiment or thing.

Confidence dodge or **buck** (common), explained by extract from *Daily Telegraph*:—

". . . Swindled him out of his watch and chain by means of that ten thousand times repeated rogue's device, the *confidence* trick. It was the old game pure and simple—the threadbare hocus-pocus of inviting the victim, a perfect stranger, to 'come and have a drink,' and while the friendly glass is being discussed in comes another man, who joins in the conversation, and, in a casual way, mentions that he has just inherited several thousand pounds, and that, as a thank-offering, he should like to give away, by deputy, a few hundreds to the deserving poor, and is ready to hand over the largess there and then to any person who can show to his satisfaction that he is of an unsuspicious disposition; the same to be proved by his entrusting the money and jewellery he may happen to have about him to his, the benevolent legatee's, keeping, while the latter goes away for half-an-hour or so with the same."

Congee, conjee (Anglo-Indian), rice water; from the Tamil *kañshi*, "boilings."

Conk (common), nose.

His "dexter ogle" has a "mouse;"
His *conk's* devoid of bark.
—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

"Conky" is a nickname given by schoolboys to one with a prominent nose. The great Duke was called "Old Conky."

Conscience (theatrical), a kind of association in a small company for the allotment of shares in the profits, &c. The man who is lucky enough to have a con-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

cern of his own, generally a very small affair, however badly he may act, must be the leading man or first low comedian, perhaps both. He becomes the manager, of course, and thus has one share for "fit-up," one for scenery, one and a half for management, one for wardrobe, one and a half as leading man; and the same is given to the wife, who, of course, will not play anything but the juvenile lead, but who at any other time would be glad to play first old woman. Thus the manager takes nearly all the proceeds.

Consonant choker (society), one who cannot pronounce his R's and his G's.

Consoo (pidgin), consul.

My makee first-chop pidgin long-side dat *consoo* man, dat man no lawts (lazy), he blongy plenty smart inside.—*Newspaper.*

Constable (common), to outrun or overrun the *constable*, to get into debt.

Harkee, my girl, how far have you overrun the *constable?* I told him that the debt amounted to eleven pounds.—*Smollett: Roderick Random.*

Constician (theatrical), an orchestral musician.

Consumah, khansama (Anglo-Indian). Persian, *khansaman*, house-steward, or provider, or butler.

I have taught my *khansama* to make very light iced punch.—*Jacquemont: Letters.*

Contango (Stock Exchange), corruption of continuation, a renewal of a bargain, a speculative sale or purchase. The premium paid by a buyer of stock to the seller, when upon selling day he wishes the bargain to remain open.

B stands for broker, for bull and for bear,
C's the *contango* that's paid by the bull.
—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

Continent (Winchester College), to be *continent*, is to be on the sick-list. *Continent* work, work done while on the sick-list.

Continental damn (American), a term applied at a very early time in the Republic to anything utterly worthless, and supposed to have originated in some allusion to the Continental currency or American assignats.

Not to care a *continental*, not to care a damn.

Continuations (common), trousers or breeches.

Convenient (old cant), a mistress.

Convey, to (thieves), to steal.

But as I am crack, I will *convey*, crossbite, and cheat upon Simplicius.—*Marston.*

Conveyancer (thieves), a thief, a pickpocket.

Conveyancing (common), stealing; picking pockets.

The green youth who attempted to decamp with ——'s watch . . . was properly punished for his verdancy in the art of *conveyancing.*—*Modern Society.*

Conveyer (old), a thief. The expression is used by Shakspeare

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

in *King Richard II.* The French argot has the correspondent *emporteur*, with a like signification.

Cooked (society), done, defeated, finished up, exhausted.

Cook his goose, to (common), to kill, ruin a person.

Thus abstinence, which *cooks the goose*,
At length Sal's life has doffed.
—*A Song: Drunken Sally.*

Also to worst one.

Billy's too big in the Westphalia's gig-lamps, you're the boy to *cook* Fosbrooke's *goose*.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Cook, to (artists), to dodge up a picture. Artists say that a picture will not *cook* when it is excellent and unconventional, and beyond specious imitation (Hotten).

(Colloquial), to prepare, tamper with, as to *cook* accounts, returns.

A fixed percentage on every backer's pound, and the off-chance of *cooking* the returns.—*Sporting Times.*

I hate my Lady, because she has locked my *cooked* accounts in the bower saloon.—*Punch.*

Cool (common), used in reference to a large sum of money.

Suppose you don't get sixpence costs, and lose your *cool* hundred by it.—*Miss Edgeworth: Love and Law.*

Coolaman (Australian blackfellows), a word adopted from the blacks by the whites to describe a blackfellow's drinking vessel, and then applied generally.

A few broken gourds . . . and a cracked *coolaman* were to be seen here and there.—*A. Grant: Bush Life in Queensland.*

Cooler (American), prison. So called on account of its being a fit place for getting sober or cooling down; or from *cooler*, a large tub, as in quotation.

They came near soaking him in the *cooler*.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

(Popular), a glass of beer after drinking spirits. Also a woman.

Coon (American), short for racoon, a man. The term first became general nearly fifty years ago. A gone *coon* (also English), one who is ruined, lost.

Coon's age (American), a very popular expression to signify a long time, the racoon being regarded as a very long-lived animal.

I saw Miss Jones inside the stage,
'Tis now an hour or so,
It seems to me an old *coon's age*
Since I beheld her go.
—*Newspaper Ballad.*

Coop (streets), prison, abbreviation of hen-*coop*.

You say that you have been in the *coop* as many times as I have.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

Cooper, to (American), to understand.

Why on earth nature made you in the shape she did is more than I can *cooper*.—*American Newspaper.*

Possibly from a metaphor, I cannot *cooper*, I cannot grasp, that is, beyond my capaciousness, comprehension. Else from *co-operate*, with the sense of concur.

(Thieves), to destroy, spoil, forge; to *cooper* a monniker,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

forge a signature. *Vide* COOPERED.

Coopered (turf), a horse that has been hocussed or otherwise purposely injured so as to prevent him from running, was formerly said to be *coopered*. The expression is sometimes used now as in quotation.

Till they served him up a "*coopered* job,"
And then of course he came
A most conclusive "smasher."
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Tramps), a *coopered* place, a house that has been spoilt by too many tramps calling there (Hotten).

Coopered, in the sense of falling in, ruined, is possibly allied to the Scotch *cowp*, to tumble over.

Coorsy (Anglo-Indian), a chair; Arabic *kursī*.

Cooter. *Vide* COUTER.

Cop (thieves), a policeman. *Vide* TO COP.

Wen that *cop* got his hand on my collar, he ought to 'ave knowed like a shot,
By the Astrykan only, that I wasn't one of the Socherlist lot.
—*Punch.*

The *cops*, the police.

Then, as them cowards of *cops* 'ave as much on their 'ands as they kin do with, now's the time for a bit of a loot!—*Punch.*

(Anglo-Indian), *cop!* beware; an abbrevation of *coprador*.

Cop-bung (thieves), a warning cry when the police make their appearance.

Johnny Miller, who was to have his regulars, called out *cop-bung!* for, as you see, a fly-cop was marking.—*On the Trail.*

Cop busy (thieves), the act of handing plunder to a confederate, so as to have nothing about one when arrested.

Cop, to (popular and thieves), to take, arrest, steal, catch.

I'm right Tory right down to my boots, at a price, and I bellered, "'Ear, 'ear!"
But they don't *cop* yours truly with chaff none the more, my dear Charlie, no fear.
—*Punch.*

"Here, *cop*." I did not understand what he meant by the phrase. . . . I did not attempt to *cop*. Suddenly I saw three boiled potatoes, a pudding, and a six-ounce loaf roll on the floor.—*Evening News.*

(Sporting), to win, to get money; a dead *cop*, a sure method of arriving at this result.

To *cop* is derived by Hotten from Latin *capere;* more probably it comes from the gypsy *kap* or *cop*, to take; Scotch, *kep;* Gaelic, *ceapan*.

Coppas (gypsy), blankets, coverings, tiles.

Copper, cop (popular and thieves), a policeman; from "to cop," which see.

"Then three *coppers* came." "*Coppers, coppers*, what are they?" Witness: "Policemen, your worship."—*Standard.*

Copperheads (American), properly poisonous serpents. The term was applied by the Federals to the peace party.

Copperman (Australian prison), a policeman.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Copper nose, the vulgar term for *acne rosacea*, the red, enlarged, pimply nose of chronic alcoholism.

Coppers (popular), mouth; especially a parched one after potations.

A fellow can't enjoy his breakfast after that without something to cool his *coppers*. —*Hughes: Tom Brown at Oxford.*

"Hot *coppers*" is a phrase for a mouth parched by excessive drinking, or "as dry as a lime basket."

Copper, to (gaming), when playing at faro, to cover a stake with a small check, which signifies that the card selected is backed to lose, not win.

Oh, d—n Squito! It seems like she'd *coppered* me. Ever since she—since I seen that gal, luck's gone dead against me.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Copus (Cambridge University). Talking Latin at table, or similar improprieties, are followed by the infliction by the students of a fine. A *copus*, or quart of ale, is a common penalty.

Corduroy-road (American and Australian), a road made of branches and logs laid side by side. The branches stand out like the ribs of corduroy.

Cork (common), a bankrupt. "Probably," says Hotten, "intended to refer to his lightness, as being without ballast."

(Pugilistic), "to draw a *cork*" is to "tap the claret," *i.e.*, to give a bloody nose.

(Army), Captain *Cork*, applied at mess when any one is slow in passing round the bottle.

Corkage (hotels), a sum charged per bottle to persons providing their own wine. This term can hardly be considered as slang, but as a word unrecognised by dictionaries.

Corker (theatrical). A regular *corker* is a duffer; an imbecile; one who corks or bottles up another actor's effects, or ruins a play.

(English and American), something that closes up or settles a question; something unusually large, remarkable.

The Crown Prince's lunch-bill was rather a *corker*;
No wonder His Highness refused for to pay. —*Fun.*

Also first-rate; at the top of the tree.

Jake Kilrain is a *corker*, and ought to have the championship of the world.—*New York National Police Gazette.*

Corks (popular), a butler, alluding to his functions. Also money; though originally a nautical term, this is very much used by printers.

Corned (colloquial), intoxicated. From over-indulgence in drink strong enough to "corn" one (Wright). "Possibly from soaking or pickling oneself like *corned* beef," says Hotten. It has been suggested that it is from the Keltic *corn*, French *corne*, a horn used formerly as a drinking vessel. As we say that a man is in his "cups," it

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

is possible that our very remote ancestors said of him that he was horned or *corned*, but it is almost beyond doubt that the term is an Americanism from *corn*, a very common name for whisky. (Tailors), pleased.

Corner (common), to get a *corner* is to get the entire control of a stock, and so make it impossible for others to complete their bargains or to purchase.

He had been mixed up disadvantageously in a recent *corner* in marbles.—*Punch.*

(London), the "*Corner*," Tattersall's horse repository and betting-rooms, which was at Hyde Park Corner. (Thieves), a share—generally a share in the proceeds of a robbery.

Cornered (tailors), in an inextricable dilemma; for instance, a man makes a garment which is already paid for, and pawns it, spends the money, and can't raise the amount to release it when wanted.

Cornish duck (city), a pilchard. "It frys in its own grease."

Cornstalks (Australian), the settlers, especially the girls, so called because their average height is very great, though they are fragile.

We talk of *cornstalks* or "slab-sided Yankees," and have in our minds a tall but rather thin figure as representative of Australasia and America.—*Globe.*

Corn-stealers (American), the hands.

"How is you been, my old Bullock?" and he squeezed his *corn-stealers* till the old gineral began to dance like a bear on red-hot iron.—*Sam Slick: The Clockmaker.*

Corporal Forbes (Anglo-Indian), a soldier's name for cholera morbus.

We are all pretty well, but a great quantity are in hospital with *Corporal Forbes.*—*Shipp's Memoirs.*

Corpse provider, a facetious name for a physician.

"Doctor," cried the happy mother, as she waltzed into the consulting-room of the Brixton *corpse provider*, "I wish to consult you about my baby's legs."—*Sporting Times.*

Corpser. *Vide* To CORPSE.

Corpse-reviver (common), a dram of spirits.

There was a general rush for wet towels and *corpse-revivers.*—*Sporting Times.*

Corpse, to (theatrical), to confuse, to put out fellow-actors by sticking fast in the dialogue; kill a scene through ignorance, wilfulness, or stupidity. A contretemps of this kind is called "a regular corpser."

Corroboree (up country Australian), to boil; a word borrowed from the natives, who thus call one of their wild dances. Whites generally use it in the sense of disturbance, hence it is said that a kettle *corroborees* when it boils.

Cosh (popular and thieves), a stick of any kind, but more especially a policeman's baton. From the

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

gypsy *kāsht*, corrupt form *kāsh*, meaning wood in any form.

The officer . . . sought to give the finishing *coup de grâce* with his *cosh* . . . and it split the baton.—*Evening News.*

Cossack (popular), a policeman.

Costard (popular), the head; a very old word, used by Shakspeare in King Lear.

Coster bloke (popular), a costermonger.

I feels the tears come down my cheeks,
when I 'eerd him 'owl and wail,
"And," sez I, "I'm a simple *coster bloke*,
but my 'art's right as the mail."
—*Sporting Times.*

Cot, a term of opprobrium for a woman. Heard in Kentish watering-places for the most part.

Cotton lord (common), a Manchester manufacturer or dealer in cotton.

Cottonopolis, Manchester (Hotten).

Cottons (Stock Exchange), Confederated Dollar Bonds.

Cotton, to (common), a colloquialism in the sense of to like, agree, be attached (literally to adhere, cling to, like cotton to cloth), but used in a slangy sense as in quotation.

For when once Madam Fortune deals out her hard raps,
It's amazing to think how one *cottons* to drink!
At such times, of all things in nature, perhaps
There's not one that is half so seducing as schnaps.
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Couch a hogshead, to (old cant), to lay down to sleep.

I *couched a hogshead* in a skypper this darkemans.—*T. Harman: Caveat.*

Council of ten (popular), the toes of a man who turns his feet inward (Hotten).

Counterfeit crank (old cant), a rogue who shammed epilepsy. From the German *krank*, sick.

Those that do *counterfeit* the *crank* be young knaves and yonge harlots, that depely dissemble the falling sickness.—*T. Harman: Caveat.*

Counter-jumper (common), a shopman, a draper's assistant.

"Sir, you should know that my cheek is not for you." "Why," said he, stifling his anger, "it seems free enough to every *counter-jumper* in the town."—*C. Kingsley: Westward Ho.*

Counter-skipper (popular), a variant of "counter-jumper," a shopman.

Counter, to (pugilistic), to strike.

His kissing traps *countered*,
His ribs roasted.
—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Count noses, to (parliamentary), to take the number of a division.

County crop (prison), hair shortened to about an inch, which used to be the rule in all prisons, but is now confined to convicts. The expression is therefore now a misnomer, as county prisons no longer exist since the Government took all over in 1877, and prisoners are not thus cropped, as it would continue their punish-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

ment by marking them out after their discharge.

Couple-beggar (old cant), a low fellow, who officiated as a clergyman in performing marriages in the Fleet prison.

Couranne (theatrical), from *couronne* or *corona*, five shillings.

Court card (old slang), a beau.

Court martial (schoolboy), the practice of tossing in a blanket for a practical joke.

Couter (popular), a sovereign. From gypsy, *cutto*, literally a piece.

Cove (popular and thieves). In old cant, "cofe," "cuffin," a man; also landlord.

He's a rum dog. Don't he look fierce at any strange *cove*.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Besides, I am that sort of *cove* the swells so much admire.—*Toby.*

This word Hotten connects with "cuif," a North of England word for a lout or awkward fellow. This seems to be borne out by the circumstance that in most cant languages man and fool are synonymous, but it has been suggested to be more probably from the Romany *cova*, a thing, the term being almost indefinite in its applicability. "It is," says Pott, "a general helper on all occasions, is used as a substantive and an adjective, and has a far wider scope than the Latin *res*. Thus *cove* means that man; *covi*, that woman." The derivation from the German *kopf*, a head (not applied directly to individuals except as in English), has also been suggested. (Australian station), the *cove*, the master, or overseer.

Covent Garden (old slang). This place seems to have acquired at one time a most unenviable notoriety, for it entered considerably into the vicious slang of fifty years ago. Thus "the *Covent Garden* ague" was a certain venereal disease; a "*Covent Garden* abbess" was a procuress; and prostitutes were nicknamed "*Covent Garden* nuns." (Rhyming slang), a farthing pronounced farden.

Cover (thieves), an accomplice who "fronts" or covers a pickpocket while he is operating. (American), to *cover*, to drink.

An Englishman drinks rum fustian, imagining that he is *covering* a fancy mixed drink.—*American Newspaper.*

Cover-down (thieves), a tossing coin with a false cover. Obsolete.

Covess (old cant), explained by quotation.

. . . Well acquainted with the cove and the *covess*—that is, the landlord and landlady.—*J. Parker: Variegated Characters.*

Covey (popular and thieves), a man or boy. *Vide* COVE.

Hullo, my *covey!* what's the row?—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

"Can't you repay me that five bob now?" "You'd only booze it if I did." And the *covey* will have to wait.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Coving, theft of jewellery by palming it as a conjuror does.

Covo (gypsy) (for *acóvo*), this; this person or thing. *Covo*, "this man;" *covi*, "this woman."

Covva, cuvva (gypsy), a thing; often pronounced *cover*, "up to all the *covvas*," up to all the tricks, games, devices, or "rigs."

Covvaben (gypsy), an incident.

Cow (nautical), a gay woman. *Vache*, in the French slang, has the same signification. (Turf), one thousand pounds.

Cowan. In ordinary slang a spy, a sneak, a prying informer. It is a term given by the Freemasons to all uninitiated persons, and is probably the Hebrew word *cohen*, כהן, a priest, from the opposition and oppression which the Freemasons have endured from the Catholic Church. *Cowan* is not an uncommon form of "Cohen" as a name among Jews. The derivation of *Cowan* from the Greek *κύων*, a dog, is a great injustice to the Freemasons, who have never regarded or treated the uninitiated as dogs.

Cow and calf (rhyming slang), to laugh.

Cow-boy (American), cattle herder or drover of Texas and South-Western States. The term was applied during the revolutionary war to so-called Tory partisans in the State of New York, but who were no better than brigands, plundering both sides.

Cowcamp (American), explained by quotation.

. . . Were a number of *cowcamps*, where recently settled stockmen kept watch and ward over herds of long-horned Texas cattle, which grazed along the river or on the *mesas* above.—*The Youth's Companion.*

Cow-chilo (pidgin-English), a girl, *i.e.*, *cow*-child. A boy was termed *bull-chilo*. These terms are becoming obsolete, but are often used in fun to chaff Chinese.

In he city of Whampo
Lib Joss-pidgin man name Coe,
Massa Coe he missionaly,
Hab got one *cow-chilo* Maly.
—*The Ballad of Mary Coe.*

Cow-cow (pidgin), to be very angry, to scold (Hotten).

Cow juice (popular), milk; the term is also used by schoolboys.

Cowlick (popular), lock of hair twisted forward from the ear, rarely seen now.

Cow-oil, or **cow-grease** (pidgin), butter. Obsolete, but literally translated from the Chinese.

Cows and kisses (rhyming slang), mistress or missus; the ladies.

Come, *cows and kisses*, put the battle of the line on your Barnet fair, and a rogue and villain in your sky-rocket.—*Hersley: Jottings from Jail.*

Cowshooter (Winchester College), a round-topped hat, worn only

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

by prefects, "bluchers" (ranking next to prefects), and "jolly-keeps," or old students.

Crabs (thieves), feet; to move one's *crabs*, to run away.

I crossed a crusher at the landyard. . . . I moved my *crabs* like a bull.—*On the Trail.*

(Dice players), a pair of aces.

Crabshells (popular), shoes.

Crack, a recognised colloquialism, used as an adjective, meaning first-rate.

Captain Cadsby, as he loved to call himself, was the *crack* shot of Doltshire. —*Truth.*

(Sport), a *crack*, an adept.

Lawn tennis at Cannes . . . the doings of the *cracks*, we know, interest many of our readers.—*Pastime.*

(Turf), the *crack* is the favourite in a race.

The extraordinary fluctuations in the betting which drove the *crack* from 6 to 4 to 10 to 1 the night before the race.—*Sporting Times.*

(Old), a *crack*, an insane person, a boaster.

(Popular), a *crack*, a prostitute; to *crack* up, to extol, to puff (obsolete English, but used in a slangy sense); in a *crack*, in an instant; to *crack*, to inform.

(Thieves), a *crack*, a burglary.

Here . . . success to the *crack*.
—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

To *crack* a crib, to commit a burglary.

I mean to *crack* a crib to-night,
But, pals, don't *crack* on me.
—*Ballad: Bates's Farm.*

The crib's barred up at night like a jail; but there's one part we can *crack* safe and softly.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

(Tinker), *crack*, a stick. Not "modern gypsy," as declared by Hotten.

Crack a bottle, to (common), to drink a bottle of liquor.

Crack a whid, to (thieves), to talk.

Cracked nut (common), the head of an insane person.

An enthusiastic poet begs Mr. —— to lift up his "crested head." *Cracked nut* would, practically speaking, be more to the point.—*Fun.*

Cracked up (common), ruined, "gone to smash."

Cracker (common), an untruth consequent on boastful or improbable statements. The older form is "crack," alluding to high-sounding language, as in "crack up," to loudly extol, puff up. It has been suggested that "crack" is from the Gaelic *crac*, to talk. The French *une craque* is a mild untruth, or a gasconade, and in the latter sense it is synonymous with *cracker*. Le Baron de Crac is the French Munchausen, the hero of a volume of travels, who meets with the most marvellous adventures, the type of a boastful, gasconading, story-teller.

Crackey (popular), an ejaculation. A corruption of "crikey," which see.

Cracking a crust (common), rubbing along in the world; "*cracking a* tidy *crust*," means doing very well. This is a very com-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

mon expression among the lower orders (Hotten).

Crackling (Cambridge University), the three velvet strips worn on the sleeve by members of St. John's College, Cambridge, called "hogs."

Crack-pot (American), pretentious, petty, a small person of little account.

> I'm a *crack-pot* in the city . . .
> All the barmaids at me titter
> When I call for mild and bitter,
> They say I am their little
> Bit of *crack-pot* jam.
> —*A Catnach Ballad: The Crack-Pot in the City.*

Cracksman (thieves), a burglar.

> Some mortals disdain the calm blessings of rest,
> Your *cracksman*, for instance, thinks night-time the best.
> —*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Cram, crammer (common), a lie.

My little friend . . . pulled my nose for telling what he called a beastly *cram*.—*Punch.*

That was the *crammer* I told him, and furthermore . . . I piled it up a bit.—*Greenwood: Left in a Cab.*

To *cram*, to lie; also to acquire or impart instruction hastily in view of an approaching examination. This is an almost recognised term.

A very clever lad can dispense with the expense of being *crammed*.—*United Service Gazette.*

To *cram up* one, to ply him with falsehoods.

(University), a *cram*, a translation.

The infatuated Mr. Bouncer madly persisted . . in going into the school clad in his examination coat, and padded over with a host of *crams*.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Crammer (common), a falsehood; a liar; one expert in "cramming," *i.e.*, preparing hastily candidates for examination; the head of a "cramming" establishment.

Cramped, crapped (popular and thieves), killed or hanged.

Cramping cull (old cant), the executioner.

Cramp in the hand (popular), stinginess or meanness.

Cramp words (old cant), sentence of death.

Cranberry eye (American). When a man's eye is bloodshot, generally from drinking alcohol, he is often called a boy with a *cranberry eye*. The American cranberry is very much larger than the English variety, and bears a resemblance to an inflamed optic.

Crank. *Vide* COUNTERFEIT CRANK. (American), insane, eccentric, or a monomaniac. (Old), gin and water.

Crap (old cant), money; the gallows.

> And what if at length, boys, he come to the *crap*?
> Even rack-punch has some bitter in it.
> —*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

To *crap*, to hang.

(Printers), applied to "pie," or mixed-up type, that a compositor neglects to clear away;

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

equivalent to the popular name for excrement.

(Popular), to *crap*, to ease oneself.

Crapping casa (low theatrical), the W.C.

Crapny (gypsy), a turnip, a button or nail head. Sometimes *krafny*.

Crawl (tailors), one who uses undignified means to curry favour with an employer or foreman.

Crawler (common), explained by quotation.

Every hansom-cab, or *crawler*, is in itself an express waggon on a small but sufficient scale.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Also a cab which goes slowly to pick up fares. A mean, contemptible fellow.

Craw-thumper (popular), a Roman Catholic (Hotten). In America a native of Ireland, *i.e.*, Irish Catholic.

Wanted a servant-maid. No pulings or *craw-thumpers* need apply.—*Philadelphia Public Ledger.*

Craze (common), used in reference to anything in great vogue that is "the rage" for the time being.

It was a *craze* on both sides and it passed. During the *craze* S. and M. had their photographs taken together, and the double picture sold somewhat furiously.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Crazy quilt (American), properly a quilt made of all kinds of patches. Figuratively a confused and mixed political party.

Cream-jugs (Stock Exchange), Charkof-Krementschug Railway Bonds.

Oh! supposing our *Cream-jugs* were broken,
Or "Beetles" were scuring the "Babies."
—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

Creamy (common), excellent.

Creeper (prison), one who curries favour by hypocrisy and talebearing.

Creepers (popular), lice. (American), the feet.

Creeps (common), explained by quotation.

Each of those four men was immediately seized with that cold, peculiar thrill, commonly called the *creeps*.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Cri, short for Criterion.

But the youth was hard-hearted, and soon he departed,
And wandered away to the *Cri*.
—*Sporting Times.*

Crib (popular and thieves), a house, room.

They separated in the garden after they had cracked the *crib*.—*H. Kingsley: Geoffrey Hamlyn.*

The term is used by others in a disparaging sense for a place, house, situation, restaurant. (Schools), a literal translation of an author. Possibly from the meaning of to *crib*, to crowd together, to confine in a small space, as "cram," synonym of *crib*, or from the slang signification to cheat, to pilfer. To *crib*, to cheat at an examination by using a *crib*, more generally to cheat by plagiary. (Common), to *crib*, given by Webster as a

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

recognised word but used now in a slangy sense, to pilfer.

It is not stealing, at least it does not seem like stealing . . . it is at most only *cribbing.—Greenwood: Seven Curses of London.*

(Old cant), *crib*, the stomach.

Cribbage-faced (common), is said of a person marked with the small-pox.

Cribber (military), a grumbler; a cavalry term evidently from the expression "crib-biter," given to a horse which gnaws at its crib or manger, quarrelling with his last meal and his difficulty in digesting it.

Crib-biter (common), an inveterate grumbler. *Vide* CRIBBER.

Cribcracker (thieves and popular), a burglar.

The little boys . . . delight in gossip concerning his talents as a *cribcracker* and his adventures as a pickpocket.—*Sims: How the Poor Live.*

Crikey (popular), an exclamation denoting astonishment, a corruption of Christ.

"Well, I'm blowed!" he added. "This here's a free country, and a cove ain't to swear at his own gal, oh, *crikey.*"—*Sims: Rogues and Vagabonds.*

Crimum (tinker), sheep.

Cripple (popular), a bent sixpence. (Common), an awkward or dull person.

Crisp (common), a banknote.

He . . . cashed a cheque for £100 and handed over the *crisp.—Modern Society.*

Croaker (old slang), a fourpenny piece. (Common), one who takes a desponding view of everything. (Popular), a beggar, a corpse.

Well . . . it won't perhaps send you into hysterics to hear that Dave is as good as a *croaker.—J. Greenwood: Almost Lost.*

(Prison), the doctor.

One man who had put his name for the "butcher" or *croaker*, would suddenly find that he had three ounces of bread less to receive and then a scene would ensue. —*Evening News.*

Croak, to (thieves), to die, to kill.

Croakumshire (old slang). This nickname is said to have been given to Northumberland because of the difficulty people in that county have in pronouncing the letter *r*, which imparts a somewhat rough tone to the voice.

Crock (common), the original meaning is that of a slow, worthless horse, but in society it is also applied figuratively to a slow, foolish, good-for-nothing person, as in the phrase, "that girl is a regular *crock.*" In sporting and university language it is also used in reference to a duffer, a lazy bungler.

The delinquents still rowed their blades like giants and nowhere in the boat was a *crock* to be seen.—*Referee.*

With reference to the original meaning of *slow*, worthless horse, *crock* is allied to *creep*, Anglo-Saxon *creopan*, and old High Dutch *kriochan*. But it is curious to note that in German slang *krig* is a horse, and that

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the German *ross*, a horse, has given the French *rosse*, a slow, good-for-nothing horse; this word being used with the same figurative meaning as *crock*, applied to persons.

Crocker (sporting), a spaniel employed in beating underwood for small game.

Crockets (Winchester College), the word for cricket. To "get out *crockets*" is to get out with a "duck's egg," that is, without having made any runs. "Small *crockets*" is the name given to a game played with an india-rubber ball and a plain deal bat about two inches broad.

Crocodile (university), a girls' school walking two and two.

Crocus, croakus (popular and thieves), a quack; *crocus*-chovey, an apothecary's shop; *crocus*-pitcher, a street seller of medicines.

(Army), *crocus*, an army or navy surgeon. From "croak," to die, which has given the prison slang "croaker" for a doctor.

Crone (circus), a clown. From a provincialism, *cronny*, merry.

Cronker (tailors), the foreman.

Crook (thieves and popular). On the *crook*, by dishonest means; the reverse of "square." Got on the *crook*, stolen. Hence a *crook* is a thief, both in England and America.

CHICAGO *crook*.—"Good news, Jim.' . . . FELLOW *crook*.—"What's up?"—*Tit-Bits*.

No *crook* gets any good out of his boodles.—*Detroit Free Press*.

Crookback (old slang), a sixpenny piece, from some of these coins being much battered.

Crooked (thieves), stolen. *Vide* CROOK.

Croop (popular), stomach; for crop.

Cropper (common), a heavy fall; to tumble "neck and crop."

He was far more shaken by his *cropper* than in any round of his memorable fight with Bungaree or any other opponent.—*Sporting Times*.

To "come a *cropper*," to have a heavy fall. Also said of a man who experiences a decided failure.

There was a steeplechase for gentlemen riders, over which all the sharps came a *cropper* through backing Sufflet.—*Sporting Times*.

Croppie (prison), one who has had his hair cut in prison. The term was applied to Irish rebels in 1789, and formerly to those who had their ears cut off by the executioner. Puritans went by that name on account of their short hair.

Croppled (Winchester College), to be *croppled* is to be turned in a lesson.

Cross (thieves). To be "on the *cross*," to be a thief; to get a thing on the *cross* is to obtain it

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

surreptitiously, the reverse of "on the square."

The young woman is Bess, and perhaps she may be on the *cross*, and y' don't go to say that what with flimping and with cly-faking, and such like, she mayn't be wanted some day.—*H. Kingsley: Ravenshoe.*

Hence, a *cross*, a thief; termed also "*cross* man," or "*cross* cove."

It reminds us too of the "plants" and *crosses*, and of the lowest of the low who supported pugilism.—*Punch.*

(University), to *cross*, putting a *cross* against a man's name for not paying his bills to the bursar, or cutting chapel lectures, &c.

Cross chap (costermongers), a thief.

Cross cove and **mollisher** (thieves), a man and woman who are in partnership for purposes of robbery.

Cross-crib (thieves and roughs), a house frequented by thieves.

Cross-cut, and tip and sifter (American), mining terms from California expressive of motions or methods in washing gold. These terms were at one time commonly applied in slang in many ways.

Cross-drum (thieves), a thieves' tavern.

Cross-famming (thieves), robbing a person of his scarf-pin; "from the position of the arms in the act," says Hotten. *Vide* FAM.

Crossing the damp-pot (tailors), going to America.

Cross-kid, to (thieves), explained by quotation.

A reeler came to the cell and *cross-kidded* (questioned) me.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Cross-roader (American), a man whose ways are doubtful or dishonest.

. . . For the simple purpose of being introduced to the club, there to "fleece the suckers," who never suspect they are playing against a *cross-roader.*—*Chicago Tribune.*

Crow (thieves), a man who watches while another creeps into houses, down areas, or into shops. (Common), a regular *crow*, an unexpected piece of luck, *i.e.*, something to *crow* over. "I have a *crow* to pull with you," a complaint to make, or misunderstanding to clear up. (American), to eat *crow*, to recant, to humiliate oneself.

In America, a right-about movement of this character is described as eating *crow.*—*St. James' Gazette.*

Crowder (tinker), a string.

Crowders (theatrical), large audiences.

Crow-eater (colonial), a lazy fellow who will live on anything rather than work.

Crowsfoot (prison), the Government mark of the broad arrow, which is stamped in black paint on prison clothing as a means of detection in case of escape.

Crug (popular), food. (Christ Hospital), bread.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

He had his tea and hot rolls in a morning, while we were battening upon our quarter of a penny loaf—our *crug*.—*Lamb: Essays.*

Crummy (army), dirty; applied amongst soldiers to a man's appearance. (Thieves), with well-filled pockets. Also lousy. A "*crummy* doss."

Crumpet face (popular), a face with smallpox marks.

Crumpler (common), cravat.

If I see a boy make to do about the fit of his *crumpler* . . .—*Blackmore: Lorna Doone.*

Crutch (Winchester College), a name given to the school carpenter.

Cry of things (popular), a great number of things; "a cry of pears."

Cry matches (American), a slang exclamation of surprise. Its derivation is improbably given as "crime hatches." By some "cry" is considered as equivalent to Christi or Christ, but the phrase is altogether obscure.

Crusher (popular), a policeman; from the slang term "to crush," to run.

To bonnet a lot of old blokes,
And make petticoats squeal is good biz,
But a *crusher's* 'ard knuckles a crunching yer scrag? no,
I'm blowed if that is!
—*Punch.*

Crush, to (popular), to run. Possibly from "beetle-crusher" (which see).

Crust (theatrical), the head.

Crusty beau (old slang), a fop who makes up with paint and cosmetiques.

C's, the three (prison), the Central Criminal Court.

C.T.A., (circus and travelling showmen), the police.

Cuckoo (society), a fool.

Cud (Winchester College), handsome, pretty. Probably from *kudos*. (Popular), a piece of tobacco chewed, a "quid."

Cuddling (prize-fighters), wrestling.

It was said by some cavillers that there was too much wrestling, or, as they called it, *cuddling*.—*Punch.*

Cue despiser (theatrical), said of an actor who is careless in taking up his *cue*, thereby damaging the performance.

Cue, to (thieves), to obtain goods on credit which you never mean to pay for, synonymous with "going upon the letter Q," "the maqe."

Cuff (tailors), one who feigns religion, or is religious.

Cuffer (military), a lie; spinning a *cuffer*, telling an exaggerated, grossly improbable story; one that *cuffs* or beats any story. (American thieves), a man, rustic. From old English cant *cofe*, or the Yiddish *kaffer*, a stupid fellow; *kaffori*, Hebrew for a peasant.

Cuff shooter (theatrical), an impudent and presuming tyro, who

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

gives himself airs, and thinks more of his "cuffs" than his cues.

Cuffy, cuffee (West Indian), a word generally applied to negroes, and which was at one time a very common name among them. Literally it means "Thursday." Among the Guinea and Dahomey negroes every man receives a name from the day of the week on which he is born. Hence the frequency of Quashee, *Cuffee*, Juba, &c. The latest *Cuffee* introduced to the British public was King Coffee Calcolli.

The fine dash of Virginia upper *cuffyism*, it is gone, gone for ever. Sambo has settled down into a simple bourgeois.—*Putnam's Magazine.*

Culing (thieves), an abbreviation of reticuling; snatching reticules from the seats of carriages at races.

Culio (pidgin), a curio, a curiosity. The common term "curio" was borrowed from this Chinese abbreviation:—

One time two piecey Flunsee (Frenchmen) make walkee in Canton,
Look-see one piecee *culio*-shop—a first chop numpsi one.
—*L'Oiseau.*

Cull, cully (popular and thieves), a man or boy.

Now the darky shines on 'em, you see what famous togs the *cull* has on.—*Ainsworth: Auriol.*

Cully had formerly the signification of greenhorn, fool, dupe, milksop, and was a recognised word; it is used by Addison and others.

Your royal *cully* has command
Only from you at second hand.
—*Earl of Rochester: Works.*

Evidently an abbreviation of "cullion," French *couillon.*

(Theatrical), actors sometimes address one another as *cully*, or "laddie."

"Where's your wife, old boy?" inquired a friend of a well-known comedian on tour. "Don't know, *cully*."—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Rum *cull*, the manager.

Cully gorger (theatrical), the manager of a theatre. According to Baumann, a brother actor.

Cum annexes (West Indian), the members of one's family.

Cum-shaw (pidgin), a present of any kind, a gratuity, a *pourboire* or *baksheesh*. "According to Giles it is the Amoy pronunciation (*kam-siā*) of two characters signifying 'grateful thanks'" (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

Mashee, he no givee dat Chinee man *cumshaw*, not one little *nip tee cashee* (one very small coin), he too smallo man inside, he no makee plopa fashion—p'ho!—*The Talking Ducks.*

Cunnels, dunnovans (tinker), potatoes.

Cup and saucer players (theatrical), a term of derision invented by the pessimists for the purpose of depreciating the artists associated with the performance of the late T. W. Robertson's comedies.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Cup-tosser (popular), a person who professes to tell fortunes by examining the grounds in tea or coffee-cups (Hotten).

Cure (common), a curious, eccentric, odd person. Imported from America; was used with that sense twenty-five years ago. More generally now a humorous, comical person. Derived from an eccentric American popular song called "The *Cure*."

Curious, to do (popular), to do anything out of the ordinary. "Look at that man tumbling about. He's doing *curious*."

Curl up (popular), be silent.

Currants and plums (rhyming slang), thrums; slang for threepence.

Currency (Australian), persons born in Australia, natives of England being termed "sterling."

Curro (gypsy), a cup or tankard.

Curse of Scotland (Scotch). the nine of diamonds. Many derivatives have been suggested, and Hotten says the most probable is, that in the game of Pope Joan the nine of diamonds is the pope, of whom the Scotch have an especial horror.

Cursetor (old cant), a tramp, vagabond.

Curtail (old cant), second in command in the fraternity of vagabonds.

Curtain (theatrical), a strong situation at the end of an act, which, when the *curtain* descends, elicits a burst of applause, and causes the *curtain* to be taken up again.

Curtain-raiser (theatrical and journalistic), a short play performed before a more important one. Corresponds to the French "lever de rideau."

"Love and Politics" was produced as a *curtain-raiser* at the Opera Comique on Thursday.—*The Referee.*

Cuse (Winchester College), a book in which the marks of each division are recorded.

Cushion-smiter (popular), a clergyman or preacher.

Cushmawaunee (Anglo-Indian), never mind.

Cuss (American), a man.

A durned nasty old *cuss* he is, and don't you forget it.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

It is not always used disparagingly; a tough *cuss* is a bold, indomitable man.

It is said that the teamster . . . considered himself to be entitled to be called a tough *cuss*.—*Stevens: Around the World on a Bicycle.*

Cussedness (American), evil-mindedness, innate depravity. To do a thing out of pure *cussedness* is the same as to do it for mere mischief, without reason or excuse. Also audacity.

He . . . resolved to be present in his seat out of what may be characterised as pure *cussedness*.—*Daily Telegraph.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Cuss out, to (American), to subdue or silence an opponent by overwhelming severity of tongue. "He *cussed* him *out*," *i.e.*, used such violent language (not necessarily profane) as to verbally annihilate him.

Customer (common), generally used in such phrases as a "queer, or rum *customer*;" a curious fellow, or one difficult to deal with; an "ugly *customer*," a dangerous person or animal.

(American thieves), a victim.

Cut (old), tipsy. (Society), a step, a stage, as "she is a *cut* above me."

Cut a shine, to (popular), to play pranks, amuse oneself boisterously.

I smoke her havannas and lower her wine,
At times with her money I *cut a* rare *shine*.
—*Song.*

Cut and dried (thieves), the phrase refers to a robbery which has been duly planned.

Some time after that affair with the fence, one of the mob said to me, "I have got a place *cut and dried*; will you come and do it?"—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Cut bene, to (old cant), to use pleasant words.

Cut capers, to (common), to behave in a disorderly, improper manner.

Cut dead, to (common), to break off all connection with an acquaintance or friend.

But he could not get these books without Dr. Wycherley, and unfortunately he had *cut* that worthy *dead* in his own asylum.—*Reade: Hard Cash.*

Cut didoes, to, synonymous with cut capers (Hotten).

Cut dirt, to (American), to run away very rapidly.

He jump up fo' sartin—he *cut dirt* and run,
While Sambo follow arter wid his "tum, tum,.tum."
—*Negro Song of* 1829.

Cut down (American), deprived, brought low, poor.

Cut in, to (society), take a share in, to try for.

Most of the students will *cut in* for a prize.—*School Magazine.*

Cut into, to (Winchester College), to hit one on the back with a "ground ash" or stick used by prefects in the exercise of their functions.

Cut it fat, to (popular), to show off, exaggerate.

They've mustered in great force, and no mistake. I'm blest if they ain't *cut it fat*. —*Funny Folks.*

Cut of one's jib (common), one's appearance.

Cut one's lucky (popular), to go away, to run off; to make a "lucky" escape (Lat. *feliciter evasit*),

Cut one's stick, to (common), to depart; literally, procure a stick for a journey. Or a corruption of *up stick!* *i.e.*, tent-pegs, often done in a great hurry.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Far off a man appeared; and by his guise
I knew him for a keeper! . . .
. . . I fled!—fast as I could
I went!—in fact, again, and it was wise,
I *cut my stick.*
—*Fun.*

Cuts (tailors), "small *cuts*" are small scissors, button-hole scissors.

Cut saucy, to (tailors), to cut a garment in the height of fashion.

Cutsom (pidgin), custom; a word extensively applied to law, habits, usage. "Dat blongy olo *cutsom*," is continually heard from Chinese, when asked the reason for anything.

So it blongey olo *cutsom*—which neva' wailo way,
Allo baba' (all barbers) hab got stickee in China-side to-day.
—*Ahong and the Mosquito.*

Cutter (old), a cutpurse. Hotten says this ancient cant word now survives in the phrase, "to swear like a *cutter*." *Cutter*, according to Vaux, was applied to a man in the habit of drawing a knife in a quarrel.

Cut that (popular), be quiet.

Cut the line (printers), see LINES ON. When a companionship of compositors fall short of work they *cut the line*, *i.e.*, all the men leave work till sufficient is provided for the whole. The reference is to the fact that piece hands working in companionships are paid by the number of lines composed, according to size and width.

Cut the line, string, to (thieves), to cut a story short, to end a story.

Cutting (Australian and American), separating cattle from a herd and lassoing them.

I had been furnished with a trained *cutting* pony, reported to be one of the best in the valley. . . . It was only necessary, after having shown him a cow or a calf getting away from the herd, to give him his head, and at full speed he started for it immediately.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Cutting his eyes (thieves), getting suspicious.

Cutting his own throat (Stock Exchange) is said of a man who buys or sells stocks, and immediately re-sells or re-purchases them at a loss.

Cutting his painter (nautical) is said of a man who makes off suddenly or clandestinely, or dies. French sailors use the corresponding expression *déralinguer* with the same sense.

Cutting it fine. *Vide* FINE.

Cutting shop (popular), a place where cheap inferior goods or material are retailed.

Cutting the wind (military), sword drill.

Cutting-trade (trade), one conducted on competitive principles, where the profits are very closely shaved (Hotten).

Cutting up (popular), acting in an eccentric or daring manner. To *cut up* shindies was the first

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

form. The expression has extended to the United States.

Cuttle-boung (old cant), a knife used for cutting purses.

Cutto or **cutter** (gypsy), a piece, bit, rag, or drop. *Cutters o' brishno*, "drops of rain;" *yeck cutter o' levinro*, "one drop of ale." *Cutteréngrīs*, bits, pieces. *Engrī*, equivalent to a thing or one thing, like the "one piece" of Pidgin, is often quite needlessly post-fixed to a noun in Romany. (Hindu, *katra*, a drop.) Hence *cutter*, a (gold) piece, a sovereign.

Cut, to (common), to run away. Generally to "*cut* and run." Abbreviated from "*cut* his stick," or from an idea of severance, separation, as in the phrase "cutting one's painter," going away.

Excuse me, you fellows, I must *cut* off home.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Simply shook him . . . bade him to *cut* it quick.—*Town Talk.*

(Trade), to compete in business (Hotten).

(Old cant), to speak.

Cutty (common), a short-stemmed clay pipe.

"Wot's the matter?" cried the sandman, who had lighted a *cutty*, and was quietly smoking it.—*Ainsworth: Auriol.*

Cutty-eyed (thieves), one who looks suspicious.

Cutty-sark (Scotch), a short chemise.

Cut up (common), vexed; to *cut up*, to come up; generally to turn out, well or otherwise; to become; to *cut up* well, *vide* CUT UP FAT. (Thieves), to *cut up*, to divide the plunder.

Cut up fat, to (common), to leave at one's death a good estate.

Cut up rough, to (common), to give signs of great displeasure, to become violent, evilly disposed.

Well! . . . I'm not so sorry, after all, that they *cut up rough*, and ploughed me. —*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Cut up rusty, to (popular), to become unpleasant, angry, rough.

Cut up shines, shindies, to (popular), to play tricks, pranks (Hotten).

Cut your own grass, to (prison), gain your own living.

Cymbal (thieves), a watch.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

D

D (tramps and beggars), a detective.

Still I play shoeblack odd times. I have a few friends among the *D's* (detectives), who give me the job to watch a house occasionally. Then I take up the box and brushes and place myself in a suitable position. It pays well while it lasts. Nor is it the only way in which my friends the *D's* find me useful. I have free entry into all sorts of haunts, and can go and come as I like without arousing suspicion.—*Thor Fredur: Sketches from Shady Places.*

D's, the two (army), short pay. The residue left a soldier, part of whose pay is stopped by sentence of court-martial for "spouting" or pawning his kit. However large the amount to be recovered, he must be allowed to retain twopence, 2d., as daily pay.

D. H. F. (cycling slang), really letters signifying a peculiar form of fork used for bicycles, and known as the "Double Hollow Fork." Applied to a man means a stupid ass.

Dab. In the slang of "water rats," *i.e.*, river thieves who plunder the bodies of drowned persons, the body of a poor ragged woman is called a *dab;* from *dab*, vulgarly used in contempt for a woman, as a dirty *dab*, a slut, *dabs* being rags.

(Theatrical), a bed.

(Common), to be a *dab* at anything is to be more than usually expert at it.

Sir Peter Lawrie, on a recent visit to Billingsgate for the purpose of making what he calls a piscatory tour, was much astonished at the vigorous performance of various of the real "live fish," some of which, as he sagely remarked, appeared to be perfect *dabs* at jumping.—*Punch.*

Generally supposed to be derived from "adept," but to *dab* means to strike gently, and a *dab* is therefore one skilful in dabbing, one with a light touch, a skilful hand, a "good hand" at, hence expert in.

In old cant the term "rum dabe" was applied to one expert at roguery. Literally a "good hand;" possibly from German *tappe*, fist, paw, and this may be the origin of the modern *dab*. The French slang has *dab*, meaning master, chief, father.

(Costermongers' back slang), bad.

I've been doing awful *dab* with my tol (lot) or stock, haven't made a yennep (penny.)—*Diprose: London Life.*

Dab it up, to (thieves), to cohabit with a woman. From *dab*, a contemptuous term for a woman. Also to agree.

Dab out, to (popular), to wash.

His wife at this moment advantaging herself of Sabbath leisure to *dab out*

her solitary cotton gown.—*J. Greenwood: Undercurrents of London Life.*

Dabster. *Vide* DAB, AT, TO BE A.

Dab wash. Among the lower classes a *dab wash* is a small intermediate wash between the large ones.

That great room itself was sure to have clothes hanging to dry at the fire, whatever day of the week it was; some one of the large irregular family having had what was called in the district a *dab wash* of a few articles forgotten on the regular day.—*Mrs. Gaskell: Sylvia's Lovers.*

Dace (American), two cents. From deuce.

Dacha-saltee (thieves and costermongers), tenpence. From the Italian *dieci soldi.*

What with my crippledom and thy piety, a wheeling of thy poor old dad, we'll bleed the bumpkins of a *dacha-saltee.—Reade: The Cloister and the Hearth.*

Dacoit (Anglo-Indian), a robber belonging to an armed gang which, according to law, must consist of at least five persons.

Dad, daddy (popular), father. In Welsh *tad*; Irish *daid*, ancient.

He gets more like his *dad* every day.
—*Street Song.*

Dád, dádus, dádo (gypsy), of Hindu origin, father; *dadéskro*, fatherly, pertaining to a father; "ap miro dadéskro wast!" by my father's hand!

Daddle (popular), hand.

Werry unexpected pleasure! Tip us your *daddle.—C. Kingsley: Alton Locke.*

(Boxing slang), the fist.

With *daddles* high, upraised, and nobs held back,
In awful prescience of th' impending thwack,
Both kiddies stood, and with prelusive spar
And light manœuvring kindled up the war.
—*Bell's Life in London.*

Daddy (theatrical), the comic old man of a company. According to Hotten, a stage manager. At sham raffles the *daddy* is a confederate who is, by previous arrangement, to win the prize. At casual wards the *daddy* is the old pauper in charge.

Daffy (popular), gin. Hotten says:—"A term used by monthly nurses, who are always extolling the virtues of *Daffy's* elixir, and who occasionally comfort themselves with a stronger medicine under *Daffy's* name. Of late years the term has been altered to 'soothing syrup.'"

Daftie (tailors), one who says (or does) anything absurd.

Dagger-cheap (old), dirt cheap. "The Dagger was a low ordinary in Holborn, referred to by Ben Jonson and others; the fare was probably cheap and nasty" (T. L. O. Davies, Supplementary English Glossary).

We set our wares at a very easy price; he (the devil) may buy us even *dagger-cheap*, as we say.—*Andrews: Sermons.*

Dago (American), an Italian, derived by one authority from the Spanish *hidulgo*. As the word has been for a long time in use among sailors, who apply it to

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Spaniards, Portuguese, and Italians, but principally to the former, there is little doubt but that it comes from *Diégo*, which is almost equivalent to Jack in the Spanish ports.

Dags (popular), a work, a job, a performance. "I'll do your *dags* for you," *i.e.*, I'll do your work for you. The word is a corruption of the old English and Lowland Scotch, and local in many English counties; *darg*, a day's work, as in the rhyme—

> "I'll do my *darg*
> Before I arg,"

which is to say, "I'll do my work before I argue about it." The "Farmer's Encyclopædia," quoted in Worcester's Dictionary, defines "darg" or "dargue" as "the quantity of peat which one man can cut and two men wheel in a day."

Dai, dye (gypsy), a mother. *Dya!* oh mother! *Dyeskrī dye*, maternal grandmother. *Bábeli dye*, paternal grandmother.

Daily Levy, the, a nickname of the *Daily Telegraph*, in allusion to its proprietor, Mr. Levy Lawson.

Dairies (popular), a vulgar word for a woman's breasts. The allusion is obvious.

Daisies (popular and thieves), boots. Abbreviated from "daisy-roots," which see.

And there they set as dumb as mice, and me and Ginger a laying under the seats. Oh! it was a treat—with the 'eels of the copper's *daisies* just in front of my conk. But there was nothin' for it but to lay quiet.—*Sporting Times.*

Daisy (popular), jolly fellow.

We repeat, Billy allowed the operation to be carried out without even a verbal protest, very unlike him, and the robbers took away the gold box and complimented him on being a *daisy*. Border Chesterfields have not a word of heartier commendation in their energetic but limited vocabulary.—*H. L. Williams: In the Wild West.*

Daisy-cutter (common), a horse that does not lift its feet much off the ground when trotting or galloping, or simply a trotting horse.

The trot is the true pace for a hackney; and were we near a town, I should like to try that *daisy-cutter* of yours upon a piece of level road (barring canter) for a quart of claret at the next inn.—*Sir W. Scott: Rob Roy.*

(Cricket), a ball bowled all along the ground, instead of with a proper pitch. Though perfectly fair, they are considered bad form. Termed also a "sneak."

Daisy-kicker (ostlers), the name ostlers at inns sometimes give each other.

Daisyroots (rhyming slang), boots.

The Windsor warrior was anxiously regarding his newly varnished patent leathers while yearning to cross from the Guards' Club to the Marlborough in muddy Pall Mall.

"'Ere you are, sir; jump in," roared cabby. "Sooner take you across for nothing than see you spile them lovely *daisyroots*."—*Sporting Times.*

Daisyville (thieves), the country.

NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF INDIA

Dakma, to (thieves), to silence.

I had to *dakma* the bloke to clay the swag. Patsey crowed for me, and that was all the good it done me.—*On the Trail.*

Dam (up-country Australian), a pond for watering cattle. This is generally made by throwing up a bank across a hollow or little gully. When the floods come the escape of the flood-water is prevented.

The rain had been pouring down for weeks, as if to make up for the summer's drought. It had filled the *dams* and flooded the creeks, and the diggers were having a drunken bout.—*Keighley Goodchild: Waif.*

Damber (old cant), first *damber*-cove, a head-man.

Dame (Eton). At Eton the word *Dame* has no reference to the weaker sex. Any person, other than a classical master, who keeps a boys' boarding-house in College is a *Dame*. Thus all mathematical masters' houses are *Dames'* houses.

I am thankful to say that I did not attend the show. But I happened to see the World conducted back to his *Dames*, and the spectacle was gruesome. The punishment inflicted had been very considerable, and I do not think the World appeared in public for quite a fortnight.—*Sketchy Memories of Eton.*

Damnation Corner (Eton), explained by quotation.

Meanwhile, "regardless of our doom, we little victims played," or rather watched the play; we little knew what cruel fate awaited us, or that the present head-master of Eton and the Rev. F. W. Cornish lay in ambush for our outcoming behind that very sharp turn in the High Street, which, on account of its acute angle, and the consequent danger of being nailed in shirking in old days, was somewhat flippantly termed *Damnation Corner.*—*Sketchy Memories of Eton.*

Damned soul (old slang). A clerk in the Customs House, whose duty was to swear or clear merchandise, used to guard against perjury by taking a previous oath never to swear truly; he was called a *damned soul.*

Damper (school), a suet pudding in use at schools, introduced before meat to take off the edge of the appetite. (Thieves), a shop till. To "draw a *damper*," to rob a till.

(Tailors), a "sweater," *i.e.*, one who gets as much work for as little pay as possible out of workmen.

Damp-pot (tailors), the sea.

Dance, to (printers). If letters drop out when the forme is lifted, the forme is said *to dance* (Academy of Armoury, R. Holme, 1688).

(Old), "*to dance* the Paddington frisk," to be hanged; also termed "*to dance* upon nothing." French "danser une danse où i' n'y a pas d' plancher."

Just as the felon condemned to die,
With a very natural loathing,
Leaving the sheriff to dream of ropes,
From his gloomy cell in a vision elopes
To a caper on sunny greens and slopes,
Instead of the *dance upon nothing.*
—*Hood: Miss Kilmansegg.*

Dancer or **dancing-master** (thieves), a thief who gets on the roof of houses and effects an entrance by a window. He has of course to pick his way

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

carefully, and to be as neat in his steps as a *dancing-master.*

Dancers (thieves), a flight of steps or stairs.

Come, my Hebe, brack the *dancers*, that is, go up the stairs.—*Lytton: What will he do with it.*

Dander (low), to get up one's *dander*, or to have one's *dander* raised, to get suddenly into a passion; to burst or flare up.

The fire and fury that blazed in her eyes gave ocular evidence of her *dander* being up.—*From the N. O. Picayune, cited by Bartlett.*

My *dander* got considerable riz at this, so I knocked the chap down as called me a confederate.—*Scraps.*

From the Dutch.

There is not the slightest proof that this is derived from raising the scurf or *dander* at the roots of the hair, as Bartlett thinks, though Americans, misled by the resemblance of sound, talk about "*dander* being riz." In Dutch *donder* is thunder, and *op donderen*, *i.e.*, to get the *donder* up, is to burst out into a sudden rage, or, as Sewel explains, "like an infernal spirit;" to flare up; to blaze out in wrath.

Dandy (coiners), a counterfeit gold sovereign or half sovereign. The spurious coin is well made, and its composition includes some pure gold.

And it is not in paltry pewter "sours," with which the young woman has dealings, but in *dandies;* which, rendered into intelligible English, means imitation gold coin.—*J. Greenwood: Tag, Rag, & Co.*

(American). This word, originally English, and manifestly taken from the ordinary word *dandy*, a fop, as a type of anything neat or fanciful, has been greatly extended in America.

The man who marries a woman simply because she is a *dandy* arrangement to have about the house does so from a pure business standpoint, and, in the end, if not compelled to support him, she has done better than many women I know of. —*Nasby.*

(Anglo-Indian), a boatman; also a kind of hammock-litter, in which travellers are carried.

In the lower hills, when she did not walk, she travelled in a *dandy.*—*Kinloch: Large-game Shooting in Thibet.*

(Irish), a small glass of whisky.

Dandy-master (coiners), a coiner who employs others to pass counterfeit coin.

The spirits obtained being mostly bottled and labelled, and unopened, find a ready sale at public-houses known to the *dandy-master*, so that no serious loss is experienced in that direction.—*J. Greenwood: Tag, Rag, & Co.*

Dang it! (common), an evasive curse, but unlike its prototype, Damn it! it is never used angrily.

Danglers (thieves), a bunch of seals.

And where the swag, so bleakly pinched,
A hundred stretches hence?
The thimbles, slang, and *danglers* filched
A hundred stretches hence?
—*On the Trail.*

Darbies (prison), handcuffs, irons.

"Stay," cried he, "if he is an old hand he will twig the officer." "Oh, I'm dark, sir," was the answer; "he won't know me till I put the *darbies* on him."—*Reade: Never too Late to Mend.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

It is said that handcuffs, used to bind two prisoners together, were called a Darby and Joan.

Darble (old cant), the devil. From the French.

Darby (old cant), ready money.

Dark (common), secret.

It was evident to the Devonshire gentleman that the three traitors had agreed between them to keep quite *dark* a certain little episode of the afternoon enjoyment.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

(Prison), "getting the *dark*," being confined in an absolutely dark cell. Probably abolished now. There was one at Clerkenwell Prison, but it was not used for at least the last ten years of that prison's existence.

Dark cully (old slang), a married man who keeps a mistress, but for fear of detection only visits her secretly.

Dark horse (turf), a horse who has never run, or who having run is supposed not to have exhibited his real powers in public. The sporting journals are kindly constant in their endeavours to throw light on this particular form of darkness.

The present year is likely to be memorable in racing records as the year of surprises. The first favourites have fared badly. The Derby was won by a *dark horse*; Ténébreuse, who carried off the Grand Prix last Saturday, was hardly in the betting.—*Standard.*

(American), a candidate who keeps his intentions in the background till he finds his opportunity.

Dark house (old), a lunatic asylum.

Dark it, to (tailors), to keep secret.

Darkmans (old cant), night.

Bene lightmans to thy quarromes; in what lipken hast thou lypped in this *darkemans*, whether in a lybbege or in the strummel?—*T. Harman: Caveat.*

I.e., "Good-day to thee; in what house didst thou sleep last night, in a bed or on the straw?"

Darkman's budge (old cant), a man who slips in unobserved into a house in the daytime to give ready entrance to his confederates.

Darks (nautical), nights on which the moon does not shine—much looked to by smugglers (Admiral Smyth).

Dark 'un (racing), equivalent to "dark horse," which see.

Darky (American), negro.

In these days of schools and schoolmasters for the coloured people the number of those "who cannot tell their right hand from their left" will presumably rapidly diminish; but before the *darky* of anti-bellum times quite disappears among the shades of things that are past.—*Harper's Magazine.*

Also twilight.

Darned, darn it (common), a corruption of and euphemism for damn. Of American origin.

"Two dimes," coolly replied Jonathan. "Two devils," snarled the customer; "why, I can get just as good cider here for five cents a glass." "No, you can't," drawled the Yankee. "There ain't a pint of cider, 'cept what I've got in that 'ere barrel, this side of Orleans. I'm *darned*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

if there is."—*Diprose: Book of Anecdotes.*

Dash (turf), to have a *dash* on a race is to exceed largely the speculator's ordinary limit of investment.

(Popular), to "cut a *dash*," to make a great parade, dress showily.

(African Coast *patois*) a present or gratuity. Guinea negro, *dass.*

Dasher (common), an extravagant or "fast" person.

She was astonished to find in high life a degree of vulgarity of which her country companions would have been ashamed. . . These young ladies were *dashers.*—*Miss Edgeworth: Almeria.*

(Turf), one noted for his smartness.

With much regret I heard, during my visit to Newmarket, that Mr. ——'s condition still continues to cause his family and friends the gravest anxiety. Would I could write better news concerning the *dasher*, who is one of the best of good fellows.—*Sporting Times.*

Dash my wig, dash my buttons, senseless evasion of the honester word damn, used at a time when profane oaths were more fashionable than they have since become.

Dashy, déva-dasi, dásis (Anglo-Indian), girls devoted to dancing and prostitution in the idol temples, especially of Southern India.

"In Hindu *deva-dāsi* means slave-girl of the gods. The like existed at ancient Corinth under the name of *ierodouloi*, which is nearly a translation of the Hindu term. These appendages of the worship of Aphrodite were the same thing as the Phœnician *Kedeshoth*, repeatedly mentioned in the Old Testament. (*E.g.* Deut. xxiii. 18.) Such girls are mentioned in the famous inscription in Citium in Cyprus . . . under the name of *alma*, curiously near that of the modern Egyptian *alima*" (also *alma* or *almeh*). Dasis are the dancing girls attached to the pagodas.—*Nelson: Madura.*

Daub (low), a vulgar name for a painter; properly a coarsely painted picture, what the French call *croûte.*

Davy (popular), a corruption of affidavit.

Ay, ay, my young coon, said she, or a silver spoon either. I'll take my *davy* it's only pewter.—*Sam Slick.*

Davy Jones (nautical), a mythical character supposed to typify the depths of ocean. *Davy Jones' locker*, the bottom of the ocean.

It has been ingeniously conjectured that the sea, which is so often the sailors' cemetery, was called Jonah's locker, that the prophet's name was corrupted into *Jones*, and *Davy* prefixed as being a common name in Wales (*Notes and Queries*). For other derivation, *vide* Dr. Charles Mackay's "Gaelic Etymology of the English Language."

Sailors sometimes call the devil "Old *Davy*." This appears to be a diminutive of devil.

Even in the appellations given him (the devil) by familiar or vulgar irreverence, the same pregnant initial prevails, he is the Deuce, and Old *Davy*, and *Davy Jones.*—*Southey: The Doctors.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Davy putting on the coppers for the parsons (nautical), the brewing of a storm.

Davy's sow, or **David's sow** (popular). "As drunk as *Davy's sow*," completely drunk.

Grose says:—"David Lloyd, a Welshman, had a sow with six legs; on one occasion he brought some friends and asked them whether they had ever seen a sow like that, not knowing that in his absence his drunken wife had turned out the animal, and gone to lie down in the sty. One of the party observed that it was the *drunkest sow* he had ever beheld."

The term may have originated (a mere conjecture) in an allusion to Nell Gywn, one of the mistresses of Charles II. (nicknamed *David*—his father was called Nebuchadnezzar by the Roundheads), who was credited with every vice by the Earl of Rochester, and of whom he wrote:

> . . . Madam Nelly,
> Whose first employment was, with open throat,
> To cry fresh herrings, even ten a groat.
> —*A Satire.*

Other synonymous expressions are, "drunk as a drum, as a wheelbarrow, sow-drunk, drunk as a fish, as a lord, as a piper, as a fiddler, as a rat."

Dawk (Anglo-Indian), transport, by means of relays of men and horses; the mail. To lay a *dawk* is to organise a postal or transport service.

During the mutiny of 1857–58, when several young surgeons had arrived in India, whose services were urgently wanted at the front, it is said that the Head of the Department to which they had reported themselves, directed them to immediately "lay a *dawk*." To which one, aghast, replied, "Would you kindly explain, sir—for you might just as well tell me to lay an egg."—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Dawk-bungalow (Anglo-Indian), a resting-place or house for travellers.

I am inclined to think that the value of life to a *dāk bungalow* fowl must be very trifling.—*In my Indian Garden.*

Daylights (common), the space left in the glass, and between the liquor and the rim; not permitted in ultra-council gatherings when a toast is to be drunk. The way on such occasions of the proposer of the toast was "no *daylights* and no heel-taps, but a full bumper."

(Popular), the eyes; to "darken one's *daylights*," to give a black eye.

Good woman! I do not use to be so treated. If the lady says such another word to me, damn me, I will darken her *daylights.—Fielding: Amelia.*

Dead (turf), certainty.

"Dealers in the *dead*" did well then; bet after bet was booked about horses which had no more chance of winning than "if they were boiled."—*Bailey's Monthly Magazine.*

Dead-alive (popular), a stupid, dull, slow fellow.

Dead-amiss (racing) is said of a horse that is incapacitated from winning a racé through illness.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Dead as a tent-peg (popular), from the pegs being buried in the ground.

FIRST CLUBMAN.—"Hullo, Bob; heard the news about Macstinger, of the 'Mosquito'?" SECOND CLUBMAN.—"No; what's up?" FIRST C.—"Great Scott! it's a case of down, not up, dear boy. He's *dead as a tent-peg*. Poisoned himself last night."—*Fun.*

Varied to "dead as a door-nail," or "dead as a herring," "dead as small beer."

Dead beat (American), an impostor; a man who does not intend to pay his share; an unprofitable sponger.

(Common), to be *dead beat*, to be utterly exhausted.

Dead broke (common), utterly ruined, penniless. (American), to *dead break*, to ruin at a gambling game.

This other, a man who had never touched a card, but learnt the game over-night and sat out a seven-hours' play with the chief gamblers, under the fire of their associates, *dead-broke* them, so that they quitted the camp laughed at by their own pals.—*H. L. Williams: Buffalo Bill.*

Dead cargo (thieves), plunder that will not recompense for the risk entailed.

Deader (army), a military funeral.

Dead finish, the (up-country Australian), excellent beyond measure; in Cockney slang an "out-and-outer." Death is a natural metaphor for completeness, for exhaustion or exhaustiveness; dead is a common prefix, expressing the same idea in "dead on," "dead-nuts," "dead certain," "dead beat," "dead heat."

"He's *the dead finish*—go right through a man," rejoins Sam rather. "Blessed if he didn't near skiver my hoss."—*A. C. Grant: Bush Life in Queensland.*

Dead-head (American), one who stands about a bar to drink at the expense of others.

Sitting on a bench outside the principal hotel are three or four hopelessly abandoned loafers, wearing plainly the stamp of *dead-head* on their shameless features, waiting to be asked to drink, or listening eagerly for the not infrequent "shout for all hands."—*A. C. Grant.*

Dead heat (common), exactly even. Two men who are equal in anything are said to be a *dead heat;* from a racing expression.

Ay, so ends the tussle. I knew the tan-muzzle was first, though the ring-men were yelling "*dead heat.*" A nose I could swear by, but Clarke said "the mare, by a short head."—*A. L. Gordon: How we Beat the Favourite.*

Dead-horse (popular), to "draw the *dead-horse*" is doing work paid for in advance. The term explains itself. Used also by sailors. Admiral Smyth says that "when they commence earning money again there is in some merchant ships a ceremony performed of dragging round the deck an effigy of their fruitless labour in the shape of a horse, running him up to the yard-arm, and cutting him adrift to fall into the sea, amidst loud cheers." French printers call this *manger du salé*, to eat salt pork, that is, something that excites thirst; from the fact

that workmen in this case, feeling disinclined for work, pay frequent visits to the wine-shop.

Dead horses (West Indian), shooting stars. The superstition of the negro mind imagines that shooting stars are the spirits of horses that have been killed by falling over ravines and precipices.

Dead lurk (thieves), breaking into a house when the inmates are at church.

Deadly lively, to be (common), to be factitiously or unnaturally jolly.

Deadly nevergreen, the (thieves), the gallows; said also to bear fruit all the year round.

Dead man (provincial), ground rising higher on one side of a wall than on the other. "There is so much *dead man* that the house is always damp."

(Popular), a scarecrow; a man made of rags. Possibly a corruption of "dudman," from cant term *duds*, for clothes, rags. Also an extra loaf smuggled into the basket by a baker's man, and disposed of by him.

Deadman's lurk (thieves), a crafty scheme laid by swindlers to extort money from the relatives of a deceased person.

Dead marine, dead man (popular), an empty bottle, implying that its contents have been alcoholic. The expression doubtless arises from the jealousy, dashed with a slight flavour of contempt, with which marines are regarded by sailors on board ship. The phrase survives in a famous old drinking-song, set to very spirited music by Jackson of Exeter—an admirable specimen of the ancient popular melodies of England, and of which the well-known chorus was—

And he who will this toast deny
Down among the *dead men* let him lie.

The word was formerly a *marine*, which, being used in a company at which William IV., then Duke of Clarence, was present, gave offence to an officer of that gallant corps, who asked the Prince what he meant by it. "I mean by *marine*," replied the Prince, with more readiness than was usual with him, "a good fellow who has done his duty, and is ready to do it again." The French term an empty bottle "un corps mort."

Dead meat train (common), a special train carrying corpses from Waterloo Station to the London Necropolis at Woking.

Dead men's shoes (common), property which can only be claimed after the decease of the holder.

Dead nap (provincial), a cheat, a downright rogue.

Dead nip (provincial), the failure of any petty plan or scheme.

Dead nuts on (popular Australian), very fond of. An ampli-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

fication of the ordinary English slang "nuts on."

Dead - oh! (naval), is said of a man in the last stage of intoxication.

Dead-on (riflemen), straight on. A rifle-shot talks of the aiming being *dead-on* when the day is so calm that he can aim straight at the bull's eye instead of having to allow to the right or left for wind. He is said to be *dead-on* himself when he is shooting very well.

Dead, on the (common), on the teetotal tack. Dead is often used as a strengthening adjective, "dead proper," "dead sober."

Dead season (journalistic), the time when nothing is going on. For society this is the summer, or during Lent.

Dead sow's eye (tailors), a badly worked button-hole.

Dead stick, to (theatrical), to stop, to break down utterly in the midst of a performance. The most eminent actors have been subject to sudden and treacherous lapses of memory. Macready has been known to break down in Virginius—a character he had acted thousands of times. Charles Kean has broken down in Othello and Melnotte. On the first night of "Henry IV." at the Queen's Theatre, Phelps *stuck dead* or *dead stuck* in Henry IV., and the actor who played the Prince of Wales had to prompt his royal father.

Dead stock (common), unsaleable ware.

The youngest, who was a capless, shoeless little wretch, certainly not more than eight years old, had a "cigar-light" box tucked under his arm; another, a couple of years older, perhaps, carried the stump of a birch broom; while the third, who was the oldest and the hungriest, looking the most decently dressed, held in his hand a few local newspapers—dismally *dead stock*, considering the day and the hour.—*James Greenwood: Crackling's Dole.*

Dead swag (thieves), plunder that cannot be got rid of.

Dead to rights (police slang), employed by detectives when they have quite convicted a criminal, and he is positively guilty. "I've got him *dead to rights*." It is often employed in a more general sense to indicate certainty of success. It seems to have originated in America.

Dead 'un (thieves), a house unoccupied temporarily or altogether.

Me and the screwsman went to Gravesend and found a *dead 'un*, and we both went and turned it over.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

(Thieves and roughs), a half quartern loaf. (Turf), a horse that may be laid against as if he were dead; possibly because he is not going to run, certainly because he is not intended to win.

"Racing men," said Mr. Justice Field, in a memorable case some years ago, "evidently have a morality of their own." And it is certain that there are bookmakers or

commission agents—call them what you will—whose honour and rectitude is unquestioned in their own circle, but who, so far from shrinking from the idea of getting money out of a *dead 'un*, will jump at the first opportunity.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Theatrical), a super who plays for nothing. The mistakes that are made in crowds and full scenes is often accounted for by the fact that a super who has attended all rehearsals is shunted at a moment's notice to make room for the *dead 'un*, who sometimes pays the super master for the privilege of getting behind the scenes as well.

(Popular), to make *dead 'uns*, explained by quotation.

Man has a desire to peck a bit; consequently he must in a measure depend upon rogues in grain, the miller, and the baker; and this rule therefore teaches the art and mystery of making what are called *dead 'uns;* that is, to charge not only for what you deliver, but for what you do not.—*Diprose: Laugh and Learn.*

Dead-wood earnest (American), quite earnest.

No! oh, good licks, are you in real *dead-wood earnest?—Mark Twain: Tom Sawyer.*

Dead wrong 'un (common), a very dishonest fellow, a cheat.

"Don't you ever speak to that man," said the Immaculate One, "he is a *dead wrong 'un*. Plays cards, and has big pockets and little fingers. Cheats. Once went into the card room with six coups ready put up in his pocket."—*Sporting Times.*

Deal suit (popular), a deal coffin supplied by the parish.

Deaner (thieves), shilling.

I know what I will do; I will go to London Bridge rattler (railway) and take a *deaner* ride and go a wedge-hunting (stealing plate.)—*Rev. J. Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

It has been suggested that *deaner* is from *denier*, but more probably it is a corruption of the Yiddish *dinoh*, a coin.

Deansea Ville (old cant), the country; *Deansea Ville* stampers, carriers.

Death-hunter (street), a man who sells dying speeches or confessions of executed criminals. Also an undertaker.

Death on (Australian), good at. The metaphor is probably that of completeness. *Vide* DEAD FINISH. "*Death on* rabbits," would mean a very good rabbit shot; "*death on* peaches," greedy of peaches. The phrase is common in the United States, where a lady over fond of finery is said to be *death on* dress.

Death-trap (journalistic), a theatre or other place of amusement made to contain large numbers of people. The expression became general after the burning of several such edifices in 1887.

Our laws, too, would enable us to punish persons whose negligence and inattention have been the causes of disaster; but then, as Mr. Punch reminds us, we never think of trying a railway director for a railway accident, or a theatrical lessee and his architect (to say nothing of a bench of magistrates) for erecting or licensing a *death-trap.—St. James's Gazette.*

Debblish (South Africa), a penny.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Deck (Anglo-Indian), a look, a peep. Hindu *dekh-nā*, to look. "*Dek-ho*, you 'bud-mash!'" In English gypsy, *dikk*. *Dicking*, from the gypsy, is common English slang for looking.

(American), a pack of cards. Formerly used in England. From the expression "to *deck* out."

Decus (old slang), a crown-piece; from the motto on the edge, *Decus et Tutamen*.

Dee (tramps), a pocket-book; termed "reader" by thieves. Probably an abbreviation of *dummy*, which see. (Popular) a penny.

KYDDER.—Hullo, Sneyde, old man, where are you going?

SNEYDE.—Inside, to see our "uncle," and get a bob on this. (*Shows his waistcoat done up in newspaper.*)

KYDDER.—We're both down on our luck again, then. I've just taken in (*looks round*)—ahem!—the blankets from my lodgings. I'll wait till you come out. (*Waits till Sneyde comes out.*)

SNEYDE.—He's a hard nail, he is. I've only got nine *dee* out of him.—*The Referee.*

Deerstalker (society), a wide-awake hat.

Del (gypsy), to give, kick; also to hit, as one says, "give it to him," but more precisely *deller*, done, draw; *dellin*, hitting or kicking; *dellin leskro*, "a givin' of him;" *dellemengro*, a horse that kicks.

Delaben (gypsy), a gift.

Delicate (begging impostors), a sham subscription-book.

Dell (old cant), a young wench. Brome ("A Jovial Crew, or the Merry Beggars," 1652) gives this word. In Old Dutch slang *dil*, *del*, and *dille* also mean a girl. *Dielken, fille de joie* (Derenbourg). *Thiele*, a Jewish girl, especially a young one. In German-Hebrew *dilla* also means a maiden. It is possible that *dilly-dally*, in the sense of philandering and amorous trifling, is derived from *dill* or *dell*. Finally the gypsy has *del* (lit. to give) in the sense of sexual union, "*Del* adré o minj."

Deloll (Anglo-Indian), a broker. In Egypt a pedlar of old clothes, a street dealer.

Delving it (tailors), hurrying, keeping the head down, sewing fast.

Demand the box, to (nautical), to call for a bottle.

Demaunders for glymmar (old cant), explained by quotation.

These *demaunders for glymmar* be for the most parte wemen, for *glymmar* in their language is fyre. These go with fayned lycences and counterfayted writings, hauing the hands and seales of such gentlemen as dwelleth nere to the place where they fayne themselues to haue bene burnt, and their goods consumed with fyre.—*Harman: Caveat.*

Demi-rep (old), a woman of questionable character—abbrevation of "demi-reputation."

. . . arrant rascals, male and female . . . *demi-reps* and lorettes, single and unmarried.—*Quarterly Review.*

Dem keb (London), a hansom; a "masher" phrase from Gilbert's

"Wedding March." "Let's take a *dem keb.*"

Demmy cit (American cadet), a townsman (cit., citizen) who is dressed as a gentleman.

Demon chandler (nautical), one who supplies ship's stores of a worthless character—often utterly unfit for use and food.

Ill-nubbed skipper for bad grub, rotten flour to eat,
Hard tack full of weevils; how *demon chandlers* cheat!
Salt junk like mahogany, scurvying man and boy.
Says he, "Where's your remedy?" Board of Trade, ahoy!
—*Sailors' Language.*

Demons (Australian), prison slang for police. "The *demons* put pincher on me," I was apprehended.

Dempstered (old cant), hung; from "dempster," the executioner, so called because it was his duty to repeat the sentence to the prisoner in open court. This was discontinued in 1773.

Denounce, to (American). In the West to pre-empt land, to announce a title to it.

You ain't got no right to come prospecting around now. I've *denounced* it all—it's all mine.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Dep (popular), a deputy. (Christ's Hospital), a Grecian.

Derby darlings, or **D.D.'s** (American), a term applied to women who wear Derby hats.

The late decidedly masculine tendency in fashionable female headgear has brought out a new type of girl of the period and coined a new phrase to describe her. The girls who promenade up and down Chestnut Street these fair autumn days, arrayed in men's stiff hats, are now called *Derby* girls, or *Derby darlings.* This is occasionally abbreviated into *D.D.* in such forms as "there goes a *D.D.*," or "she's a regular *D.D.*"—*Philadelphia Times.*

Derbyshire neck, a term for the goitrous neck, owing to its prevalence in Derbyshire.

Derrey (thieves), an eye-glass; hence the expression used by tailors to "take the *derrey*," to quiz, ridicule.

Derrick (old cant). In the days prior to the appearance in public life of the better known Jack Ketch, *Derrick* signified the hangman, from the supposed name of a then existing functionary. The word occurs in "The Bellman of London," an old play, published in 1616, the year of Shakspeare's death.

"He rides circuit with the devil, and *Derrick* must be his host, and Tyburn the inn at which he will alight."

To derrick, "a cant term for setting out on a small but not over-creditable enterprise. The act is said to be named from a Tyburn executioner" (Admiral Smyth).

Derwenter (Australian), a convict. So called from the River Derwent, in Tasmania, which, like New South Wales and West Australia, was originally a convict settlement. *Cf.* "Vandemonian" and "Sydney-sider."

Despatchers (gambling cheats), according to Hotten false dice

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

with two sets of numbers, and, of course, no pips. So called because they bring the matter to a speedy issue.

Detrimentals (society), a very common term in society for those who are not well off, and therefore detrimental as husbands.

Deuce (popular), twopence. From the French.

Deux wins (old cant), twopence.

Devil, a barrister who does work for another, termed "devilling." The *devil* gets up the case for a senior in large practice, generally without any remuneration. It is almost also an official designation. The Attorney-General's *devil* for the Treasury is a post of £1500 a year. The Attorney-General has also *devils* in Chancery, as, for instance, the "charity *devil*," for the matters in which he is officially concerned. The Attorney-General's *devil* in the Treasury, after a certain probation, is often promoted to the bench. He is, in fact, a sort of junior Attorney-General. On circuit, no one is allowed to *devil* for another unless he is a member of the same circuit, and the barrister for whom he *devils* is actually engaged in some other court on that circuit.

(Printers), a printer's junior apprentice or errand boy.

(Literary), explained by quotation.

"Who are you?" I asked in dismay.

"I'm a *devil*." . . .

"A what!" I exclaimed with a start.

"A *devil*. . . . I give plots and incidents to popular authors, sir. Write poetry for them, drop in situations, jokes, work up their rough material: in short, sir, I *devil* for them."—*George R. Sims: The Author's Ghost*.

Devil a plebe, to (American cadets), to victimise or revile a new cadet.

Devil and Tom Walker, the (American), an old saying once common in New England to the effect that it "beats *the devil and Tom Walker*," or "he fared as *Tom Walker did with the devil*." In the Marvellous Repository, a curious collection of tales, many of which are old Boston legends, there is one of *Tom Walker*, who sold himself to *the devil*. The book was published about 1832.

Devil-dodger (popular), clergyman.

These *devil-dodgers* happened to be so very powerful (that is, noisy) that they soon sent John home crying out, he should be damn'd.—*Life of J. Sackington*.

Devil drawer (old slang), a poor, miserable artist.

Devils (common), small wheels soaked in resin, and used for lighting fires.

Devil's among the tailors, the (common), *i.e.*, there's a disturbance going on. "This phrase," says Mr. Edwards, "arose in connection with a riot at the Haymarket on an occasion when Dowton announced the performance for his benefit of a burlesque entitled 'The Tailors: a Tragedy

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

for Warm Weather.' At night, many thousands of journeymen tailors congregated in and around the theatre, and by riotous proceedings interrupted the performances. Thirty-three of the rioters were brought up at Bow Street the next day. A full account of the proceedings will be found in *Biographica Dramatica* under the heading 'Tailors.'"

Devil's bedposts (common), the four of clubs.

Devil's claws (prison), explained by quotation.

A Scotch cap, worsted stockings, and a pair of shoes, completed the uniform of a full private in Her Majesty's Convict Service. This uniform was decorated all over with the *devil's claws* (the broad arrow).—*Evening News.*

Devil's daughter (common), a scolding, shrewish wife.

Devil's delight, a disturbance or quarrel of more than usual vehemence. To "kick up the *devil's delight*" is to indulge in drunken and obstreperous joviality.

Devil's dust, scraps and remnants of old woollen garments sent to the mill to be remanufactured in the semblance of good cloth, commonly known among manufacturers—who use the word satirically—as "shoddy."

Devil's golden tooth, the (American). "One would think he'd found *the devil's golden tooth*," a common saying in Massachusetts. Founded on a story to the effect that Kidd, the pirate, once obtained from the devil his eye-tooth, which had the power of changing all metals into gold. The losing and finding of this tooth by several persons forms the subject of a popular tale.

Devil's guts (old slang), a term given by farmers to the surveyor's chain.

Devil's livery (nautical), black and yellow. From the colours being used for mourning or quarantine.

Devil's Own, the Inns of Court Rifle Volunteers.

Devil-scolder (popular), a clergyman.

Devil's sharpshooters (American), a nickname given by "the church militant" to those of the clerical party who in the Mexican War belied their cloth and profession; also to any person favouring unjust war.

Devil's teeth (common), dice.

Devil to pay, the (common), an allusion to the legendary tales of the Middle Ages, in which, in exchange for the enjoyment of unlimited wealth, power, or other earthly advantage, a man was supposed to have sold his soul to the devil.

Devil to pay and no pitch hot (nautical). The seam which margins the water-ways was called the "devil." Why, only caulkers can tell, who perhaps found it sometimes difficult for their tools. The phrase, however,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

means service expected, and no one ready to perform it. Impatience and naught to satisfy it (Admiral Smyth).

Dew-drink (labourers), an early drink. French, "une goutte pour tuer le ver," the worm being thought to be more than usually thirsty in the morning.

Dewskitch (popular), a severe thrashing; perhaps from "catching one's due."

Dial-plate (common), the face. "To turn the hands on his *dial-plate*," *i.e.*, to disfigure the face.

Dials (prison), members of the criminal class who live about the Seven Dials in London.

Diamond-cracking (Australian thieves' patter), stonebreaking. The metaphor is obvious, breaking "those precious stones."

He caught a month and had to white it out at *diamond-cracking* in "Castieau's Hotel."—*The Australian Printers' Keepsake.*

In England, *diamond cracking* refers to working in a coal-mine.

Diary, to (American thieves), to remember.

Dib (common), a portion or share.

Dibs (common), money.

The —— trots round with a tin plate or a royal dish-cover, and collects *dibs* for the Imperial Institute. He exhibits himself at football matches and Church bazaars on consideration of nailing the coin for his pet scheme.—*Modern Society.*

So called, says Hotten, from the knuckle bones of sheep, which have been used from the earliest times for gambling purposes when money was not obtainable—in one particular game five being thrown up at a time and caught on the back of the hand like half-pence. This resembles the common children's game of "jackstones." The French call it "jeu des osselets." (Thieves), "flash your *dibs*," show your money.

Dick, dikk, to (gypsy, also common cant), to see, to look. Hotten says this is "North country cant," but it is found in all gypsy dialects. (Hindu, *dekhna.*) *Dikkaméngro*, a looking-glass, also *dikkaméngrī*, both referring to anything used in connection with seeing, such as spectacles, lorgnons, or telescopes. The latter would be a *dūro-dikkamengrī*—a far-seething. *Tu sāste dikkavit*, you should have seen it.

Dick at the Garjers (gorgias)
The Garjers round mandy,
Trying to lel my meriben
My meriben away.

I.e., "See the gorgios round me trying to take my life away."

Dick-kālo, to look black, frown; *dick-dūm*, I saw (seldom heard); *dick-pāli*, look back, recall.

Dicker (American), exchange or barter.

It may be for their interest to make the *dicker.*—*New York Tribune.*

Dick in the green (thieves), weak, inferior, poor. A pun on

the word "dicky," as bolt-in-tun is on "to bolt."

Dicky, or *Dick in the green*, very bad or paltry; anything of an inferior quality is said to be a "*Dicky* concern" (Vaux's Memoirs).

Dick's hatband, as queer as (provincial), anything strange or peculiar. This phrase, which Bartlett claimed as an Americanism, is in reality an English provincial simile, and correctly given is, "*As queer as Dick's hatband* made of pea straw that went nine times round, and would not meet at last." The origin of the phrase may be due to the oddness of using such a material for the purpose.

Dick, up to (popular), all right, up to the mark, good and satisfactory.

Dicky (common), middling, inferior.

> And how's the fielding?
> *Dicky!*
> 'Tis there you'll have the pull that wickets sticky
> Or cut up, through the influence of weather,
> Can't neutralise.
> —*Punch.*

It's all *dicky* or *dickey* with him, it's all over with him.

> 'Tis all *dickey* with poor Father Dick; he's no more.
> —*Ingoldsby Legends.*

(London slang), smart, a swell.

(Popular), explained by quotation.

> "I saw a laden waggon bearing the name of one of the cheap advertising firms you speak of." . . . "Ah, bearing the name . . . you saw a waggon wearing a *dicky*, you mean—a false front plate with a name on it which slips on and off like them on the wans that the pianoforte-makers borrow."—*J. Greenwood: Low Life Deeps.*

(Theatrical), "*dicky* domus," literally a bad, poor house, one with a small audience.

Dicky birds (theatrical), a generic term which includes vocalists of every description, from Madame Patti down to a singer in the chorus.

Diddle, to (vulgar), to cheat in an artful way.

> O that Tommy Riddle,
> What played upon the fiddle,
> Has managed for to *diddle* me
> Of my true love.
> —*Popular Song.*

Diddler (common), an impecunious scamp, a swindler. See Jeremy Diddler (Kenny's farce of "Raising the Wind"), or his more modern prototype, Jingle, in "Pickwick."

Didoes. *Vide* To CUT DIDOES.

Die in one's shoes, to (common), to be hanged. The metaphor is not happy, as men may die elsewhere than on the gallows with their boots on.

> And there is M'Fuze, and Lieutenant Tregooze;
> And there is Sir Carnaby Jenks, of the Blues,
> All come to see a man *die in his shoes!*
> —*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Die, or dee (thieves), a pocket-book, but specially the dummy or pocket-book stuffed with flash bank bills used by a "dropper."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Dig (common), a blow with the fist, or tips of fingers, as "a *dig* in the eye," "a *dig* in the ribs."

Dig a day under the skin, to (popular), to shave at such a time as to make it serve for two days.

Dig, full (popular), the full allowance of pay.

Diggers (popular), the finger-nails.

"If you do," returned Bill, "I will fix my *diggers* in your dial-plate and turn it up with red."—*On the Trail.*

Also spurs, or the spades on cards.

Diggers' delight (New Zealand), large brown felt hat worn by diggers in New Zealand.

Diggings (common), place or habitation. Of American origin.

I'm a daisy, dear boy, and no 'eeltaps! I wish the *St. James's* young man
Could drop into my *diggings* permiskus; he's welcome whenever he can;
For he isn't no J., that's a moral; I don't bear no malice; no fear!
But I'd open 'is hoptics a mossel concernin' my style and my spere.
—*Punch.*

Dignity, a (West Indian), the name given by Europeans to a negro ball, the designation being probably derived from the ludicrous pomposity of the negro character. The blacks are very chary of admitting strangers, and especially white people, as eye-witnesses. Oftentimes they degenerate into a scene of the wildest debauchery.

Dikk (Anglo-Indian), worry, botheration.

And Beaufort learned in the law,
And Anderson the sage,
And if his locks are white as snow,
'Tis more from *dikk* than age.
—*Wilfred Heeley.*

In English gypsy the word is *dukk*, more frequently *dush*.

Diklo, diclo (gypsy), a handkerchief, cravat. *Mea-diclo*, a necktie.

Dilly (popular), a night-cart.

Dilly-bag (Australian up-country), a blackfellow's wallet.

Their own *dilly-bags* have nothing of value or interest in them. Some locks of hair rolled up in thin slips of bark, probably belonging to a deceased friend; a piece or two of crystal for magic purposes; two or three bones, and some fat which the troopers who, from their own upbringing, are authorities on such things, pronounce human; a primitive-looking bone fish hook or two, and some string made of opossum hair—that is all.—*A. C. Grant.*

Dimber (old cant), pretty, neat.

Dimber cove (thieves and gypsies), a gentleman.

'Tis a *dimber cove*. Come, old mort, tout the cobble-colter; are we to have darkmans upon us?—*Disraeli: Venetia.*

Dimber-damber (old cant), very pretty; a very clever rogue; head of a gang. (Dekker gives *dambet*, a rascal, rogue.)

No *dimber-damber*, angler, dancer,
Prig of cackler, prig of prancer.
—*Life of Bampfylde Moore Carew.*

Dimmock (popular), money. The derivation is evidently from the small coin "dime," worth ten cents in United States coinage.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Dimmocking-bag, a bag used for collecting subscriptions in small sums for any special object; also the special savings bank of the individual who usually hoards his sixpence for a particular object, as at Christmas time for the Christmas feed.

Dinahs (Stock Exchange), Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Ordinary Stock.

Dinarly (theatrical), coin, money, borrowed from the Spanish *dinero;* "nantie *dinarly*" signifies "no treasury to-day."

Dine out, to (popular), to go without dinner.

Ding-bat (American), money. The word *din* or *ding* seems to indicate value in several languages. *E.g.*, in Yiddish, *dinoh mimaunaus*, money questions. *Din*, judgment. (Yiddish), *din we cheschbaum geben*, to settle accounts. In Dutch, *dingen*, to plead, to cheapen; *dingbank*, a judge's bench; *dinger*, one who pleads or cheapens.

Ding boy (old cant), a rogue or rascal.

Ding-dong (popular), in good earnest. To "set about a thing *ding-dong*" is to tackle it with vigour. An alliterative reduplication of *ding*, to beat, to strike, and also perhaps in allusion to the quick succession of strokes in ringing of bells.

Dinged (American), exceedingly. In the Southern States a man will say that he worked *dinged* hard. *Vide* DINGGONED.

Dingers, the cups and balls; or, in the French phrase, "gobelets et muscades," used by conjurors.

Dinggoned (American), a Western equivalent for "darned." In the South it takes the form of "dinged." They are all euphemisms for "damned."

Well, sir, that *dinggoned* show was more of a mystery to me the more I examined it, so I took Stack and Wirth out into the hall and explained my impressions.—*Superior Inter Ocean.*

Dip (popular), a pickpocket; to *dip*, to arrest, convict, be put in any way into trouble.

(Thieves), to *dip*, to pick a pocket, from the ordinary sense of the word. To *dip* a lob, to steal the contents of a till. Also to pawn.

Dipped in the wing (popular), winged, worsted.

I'm nipped in the bud, I'm *dipped in the wing*,
I'm weeded, I'm sold, I am everything
That is wretched, forlorn, and mad with despair,
Look at my head—only gaze at my hair.
—*Cecil Merrie: Only wait till you're Married.*

Dipper, dipping bloke (thieves), a pickpocket.

Off to Paris I shall go to show a thing or two
To the *dipping blokes* wot hangs about the cafés;
How to do a cross-fan for a super or a slang,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

And to bustle them gendarmes I'd give the office.
—*Vance: The Chickaleary Cove.*

Dips (nautical), the purser's boy.

Dirt-scrapers (American), lawyers who in examining witnesses ask them all manner of needless questions relative to their past lives and inquire closely as to all their relations with women, &c., either with a view to making them appear immoral and discreditable, or, as is often really the case, to afford to the court and spectators the exquisite pleasure of seeing a man or woman tortured and put to shame. A criminal case without any *dirt-scraping* has become of late very exceptional, both in England and in America.

Dirty half hundred (military). The 50th Regiment was called so, partly from having black facings which gave a sombre look to the uniform. After the battle of Badajos it was changed to the "gallant half hundred."

Dirty puzzle (common), a slut.

Discombobberated (American), discomposed, upset, "flummuxed."

An' when he seen I'd killed a deer as slick as grease he was so *discombobberated* he couldn't speak.—*New York Sun.*

Discommon, or **discommune** (university), not to communicate; that is, to prohibit students dealing with certain tradesmen who have transgressed the rules of the University, a species of excommunication or "boycotting."

Disguised in liquor (common), a common phrase in the vernacular for one who is slightly intoxicated. The expression, though vulgar, is not without merit, as conveying the truth that a drunken man is not playing a real part, but has assumed a guise that is false and unnatural.

Dish, to, to circumvent, to ruin, to frustrate an enemy's or an opponent's plans. The word was used by the late Earl of Derby on a memorable occasion, when he affirmed that such and such a measure would "*dish* the Whigs." It has been supposed that the word was used in the first instance as a corruption of "dash," "dash" itself being an euphemism for "damn," as in the vulgar oath, "dash my wig," for "damn my wig," but to *dish* most probably is only one of the many expressions connected with the kitchen, as "to cook his goose," to "give one a roasting," to "do brown," &c.

Dishclout (common), a dirty, unsavoury woman. When, however, a man marries his cook, and it is said that he has made a napkin of a *dishclout*, no other meaning is attributable except that a "mésalliance" has been made.

Dispar. The following explanation of this term is given by W. H. David. "The word

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

'sines,' the scholars' allowance of bread for breakfast or supper, and *dispar*, his portion of meat, have their origin in a Winchester College custom which prevailed in the last century. There being neither 'hatch' nor roll-call at the College Hall in these days, the provision for breakfast was laid out on a table, and the stronger took the lion's share, and left the weaker 'sines.' So again at dinner the double plate of meat fell to the former as a matter of might, and the unequal moiety, the *dispar*, became the portion of the weaker junior."

Diss (printers), abbreviation for distribution, *i.e.*, printed off type—to be returned to its respective cases, and re-composed.

Dissecting job (tailors), a heavy alteration.

Distiller (Australian convicts' slang), one who is easily vexed and betrays his chagrin. *Vide* CARRY THE KEG. Probably not of colonial origin but introduced by transportees.

Ditch and ditcher (Anglo-Indian), slang terms applied in a disparaging manner to Calcutta and the "Calcuttians."

Dittoes, a suit of clothes made all of the same cloth, in French "un complet." The term is pretty general.

Ditty (popular), bag; a corruption of the tailors' phrase, "a ditto bag," from the bag in which they keep miscellaneous articles for the repair of their clothes or shoes—for thread, tapes, buttons, needles, pins, nails, &c.

Dive (American), a drinking-saloon; a cellar-saloon.

An Ourayite recently passing through Canon City on Sunday was invited to go to the penitentiary to church services, and, accepting the invitation, found 385 convicts assembled, and among them, playing the violin in the choir, the young Italian who shot his mistress through the window of her house just back of the *dive* known as "220" here in Ouray about a year ago.—*The Solid Muldoon, Ouray, Colorado.*

Dive into one's sky, to (popular), to thrust one's hand in one's pocket.

"Yes, I know, Uncle, it's Mary Ann. I see you through the keyhole this morning when she brought up your shaving water."

Then Uncle Ben *dived into his sky* and brought up a nice bright Jubilee half-dollar, and little Willie went off to the confectioner's singing.—*Sporting Times.*

Dive into the woods, to (American), a common figure of speech for hiding one's self.

A female of the Salvation Army has invented what is called the "salvation kiss." Young men who have seen the female portion of the army will not seek salvation in this new form. They will *dive* still deeper *into the woods* when the army comes around.—*Norristown Herald.*

Diver (thieves), a pickpocket; he "dives into the skies" of other people.

Divide the house with one's wife, to, a quaint saying which signifies to turn her out into the street.

Diving-bell, a cellar tavern.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Divous (gypsy), a day. *O bōro divoúsko dívous*, the great day of judgment. Probably a contraction of *dúveleskro*, divine.

Divvy (American), to divide, share, or partake.

If Mexican robbers make a rush on an American ranch in Zapata, Frio, Cameron, Hidalgo, or Starr Counties, they are expected to *divvy* with the American gentlemen engaged in the same line of business before being permitted to cross the river peacefully.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Do (popular), a *do* is a fraud, an imposition.

I thought it was a *do* to get me out of the house.—*Sketches by Boz.*

Do, to (common), to outwit, to pay out, to cheat. (Thieves), to *do* a place or crib, is to break into a house for the purpose of stealing.

I went in a place and touched for some wedge, which we *done* for three pounds ten.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

(Popular and thieves), "to *do for*," to kill.

The prisoners had since stated that the stranger had bidden them to *do for* M. ——, and then to take away everything which he might have about him.—*Daily Telegraph.*

Do a bit, to (popular), to eat something.

When I asked her what she'd take,
Her answer made me queer;
She said, "I admit
I can *do a bit*
Of everything that's here.
Some mulligatawny soup, a mackerel, and a sole,
A banbury, a bath-bun, and a tuppenny sausage roll,
A little drop of sherry, a little pint of cham,
A roley-poley pudding, with a pile of cakes and jam."

—*Matilda Gorger: Francis and Day.*

Do a guy, to (thieves), to run away, to get out of the way.

It's a fact to be deplored, though it cannot be ignored,
That all of us are not well off for oof;
And occasionally a Johnny, who is "gone" on some fair "honey,"
Hasn't cash enough to treat her like a toff.
When he tries to raise the wind, it's just possible he'll find
It difficult to keep within the law,
Alas! he may be "fly," but when it's time to *do a guy*,
He's sure to meet the bobby at the door.

—*Sporting Times.*

(Workmen), to be away whilst supposed to be at work.

Dobie (Anglo-Indian), a man who performs the functions of a washerwoman; also a washerwoman.

Dock (old cant), to deflower (Harman); gypsy, *dūkker*, to wrong, ravish, injure. *Dūkker* or *docker* is often used without the terminal "er." Turner derives it from the Gaelic *terraich*.

(Printers). This is colloquial for a man's weekly bill or "pole," probably from the fact of its being subject or liable to be "docked" or curtailed by the person appointed to check the bills. (Winchester), to *dock*, to scratch out; to *dock* a book, to tear out pages from a book. (Popular), hospital.

Docker (law), a brief for defence handed by a prisoner in the dock to any barrister who by the

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

etiquette of the profession is bound to take it, at the minimum fee of 23s. 6d.

Doctor, the (up-country Australian), the men's cook on a station. The title of the man who concocts one kind of mixtures and prescriptions is transferred to one who practises in another branch of the profession, which is thoroughly characteristic of Australian slang.

(Old), a decoction of milk and water, rum, and a spicing of nutmeg.

(Gamblers), *doctors*, false cards or dice.

"Here," said he, taking some dice out of his pockets, "here are the little *doctors* which cure the distempers of the purse."—*Fielding: Tom Jones.*

From to *doctor*, to poison, to falsify, to adulterate.

She *doctor'd* the punch, and she *doctor'd* the negus,
Taking care not to put in sufficient to flavour it.
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

To "put the *doctor*" on one, to cheat him.

Perhaps ways and means may be found to put *the doctor* on the old prig.—*T. Brown: Works.*

(Popular), to "keep *the doctor*" is said of a publican who retails adulterated drinks.

Dodgasted (common), a milder form of damned.

"Well, what was it, anyhow?"

"It was one of those *dodgasted* electrical machines! Trying my nerves, you know!"

And when the boys had recovered, the funeral-monger had gone, and so had all the available drinks on the counter.—*Sporting Times.*

Dodge (common), a clever contrivance; a cunning, underhand trick. A recognised term, but used in many slangy senses. Among the numerous *dodges* resorted to by tricky or dishonest persons are the "pamphlet *dodge*."

The "pamphlet *dodge*" is an established variety of the begging-letter man of trade. Two or three experts will club together to take advantage of a striking event or momentous political crisis, find out some poor penny-a-liner in one of the haunts of such people, and get him to throw together forty or fifty pages on the particular subject, paying him miserable wages for the work.—*Tit-Bits.*

(Thieves), "delivered *dodge*."

Alfred sends his servant with goods to a customer, with orders to bring back the goods or the money. The servant takes the goods and hands in the bill, and the customer says, on reading the bill, "All right, put the goods down there," which the man does, expecting that the customer is about to pay the bill. When he has done so, the customer says he will call and pay his master; but on the man telling him he must take the goods back if the bill is not paid, the customer replies that he has delivered the goods, that they are now in the possession of the purchaser, and that if he touches them he will give him in charge of the police.—*Tit-Bits.*

The "tidy *dodge*," dressing up children so that they look tidy, and slowly walking about the streets with this genuine or borrowed family for begging purposes.

To *dodge*, to track one in a stealthy manner.

There's not the smallest danger in it . . . it's only to *dodge* a woman. . . . I can do that pretty well, I know. . . . I

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

was a regular cutting sneak when I was at school.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Dodger (common), a tricky person, a swindler. Dickens has immortalised the word by his character of the Artful *Dodger* in Oliver Twist. (Popular), a dram. (Provincial), a night-cap, hence the latter meaning. (American), this term, meaning a round roll or pat of maize-bread, is apparently derived from the same word as applied to any object of a similar shape (*e.g.*, in vulgar slang, the *penis*). In Dutch, *dag* or *dagje* (*en end-tje dagg*) means a short bit of rope. *Dot* or *dotje* is also a ball of wool, cotton, &c., generally spoiled, decaying, or in a mass.

Dodo (old), a common expression for a fussy old man, or decrepit man.

Dod-rottedest (American), a euphemistic form of swearing; sometimes "dod-fetched," "dod-gasted."

Well, sir, there was the *dod-rottedest* machine you ever saw. A nice-looking man with black whiskers was turning away at a big balance-wheel made of champagne bottles. — *Superior Inter Ocean.*

Dog (society), a man; a gay *dog*, a jolly *dog*, a careless *dog*, &c. The word *dog* now has come to mean in society a gentleman of an amorous turn of mind, who has great success among the ladies.

(American), *dog*, *dog-goned*, God and God damned, as it is popularly explained; it being believed that *dog* is the word God reversed. "I'll be dogged" is the common form, and it is really never used to seriously signify anything so extreme as eternal condemnation. It is possibly a New York word, and may therefore be derived from the Dutch *daugen*, to summon to judgment, to arraign. If this be so, there would be a very apparent connection with condemned.

Dog-collar (common), a stiff, stand-up collar, one of the kind much in favour among dandies.

Dog-durned (West American), a mild form of swearing. Probably an euphemism for God damned.

Bird declared that he would be *dog-durned* if he was going to run his interior (he called it by some other name) out a-driving the stock any further ahead—*durned* it he would.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Doggery (American), a partial anagram of groggery. A low drinking place, a "rum-bucket-shop," a "dive," a "gin-mill," a "boozing-ken," a "rum-icile," a "drunkery."

Not one word can be justly said against the character or ability of any of the nominees. They are in every way immensely superior to their Democratic opponents, who number among them as far as the nominations have gone half-a-dozen *doggery*-keepers, a crooked ex-gager, a police-court shyster, and a railroad lobbyist. Two or three other *doggery*-keepers and a lobbyist or two and Van Pelt will be added before the Democratic nominations close. The "Reds" and the "side-show" people will hardly elect any of their men unless

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

they are indorsed by the Democrats.—*Chicago Tribune.*

(Popular), nonsense.

Dogs (Stock Exchange), Newfoundland Land Co. Shares.

Dog's body (nautical), a kind of pease-pudding.

Dog-shooter (Royal Military Academy). Cadets thus term a student who accelerates, that is, who, being pretty certain of not being able to obtain a commission in the engineers, or not caring for it, elects to join a superior class before the end of the term. An allusion to a volunteer, called a *dog-shooter.*

Dog's nose (common), gin and beer; "so called from the mixture being as cold as a *dog's nose,*" say several etymologists. It is also applied to a man given to whisky.

Dog's paste, (popular), sausage, mince-meat.

Dog's soup (common), rain water.

Dog stealer (common), a facetious appellation for a dog-dealer, who is generally considered as deserving it.

Dog's tail (nautical), a name for the constellation Ursa Minor, or Little Bear.

Dog-town (American), a colony of prairie dogs.

The prairie dogs had colonised in a part of this. the upper end of the valley, and we traversed a *dog-town* some acres in extent, each underground habitation of which was marked by a little heap of excavated earth. —*F. Francis; Saddle and Moccasin.*

Doing a bishop (army), turning out for parade at short notice, and with small preparation for cleaning up, &c.

Doing a bunk or **doing a shift** (common), attending to nature's needs.

Doing a nob (circus and showmen), making a collection of money from spectators (Frost's "Circus Life").

Possibly from the gypsy *nobbet.*

Doing a star pitch (theatrical), sleeping in the open. French, "coucher à l'hôtel de la Belle Étoile.

Doing it on the d. h. (common). I could do it on my *d. h., i.e.,* on my head, is a vulgar assurance of being able to do a thing with the greatest ease.

Doing out (American thieves), a device by which a thief, if arrested with a confederate, pleads guilty but acquits the other.

Doing polly (prison), picking oakum in jail.

Doings (American), any kind of food, but in most instances applied to that of an ordinary sort.

Suppose you drop roun' ter-morrer an' take dinner wid me. We ain't got no great *doins* at our house, but I speak de old 'oman . . . kin sorter scramble roun' 'em git up sump'n.—*Uncle Remus.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Doing time (thieves) refers to a term of imprisonment.

Doldrums (nautical and provincial), trouble, low spirits, worriment. "Jack in the *Doldrums*" was the title of a tale or novel. Applied sometimes to a stormy place, or where the weather or navigation is bad.

For then I must surely die,
And my soul sail off to *Doldrum's* isle,
Unless some one pities my pain
And carries me down where the waters boil,
And pitches me in again.
—*The Song of the Merman.*

The term seems to have become general. Probably from dull (with the sense of doleful), and a facetious suffix, as in tantrums. For other derivations *vide* Dr. Charles Mackay's "Gaelic Etymology of the English Language."

Dole (Winchester College), a trick, stratagem; from the Latin *dolus*.

Dollar (city), a five-shilling piece.

Dollop (old slang), a lump, a share. To share, according to Hotten, derived from "dole up," to deal out in small portions, Dutch, *deal*, a share.

The old gal used to stow a whacking lot in a big pocket she had in her petticut, and I used to put away a *dollop* in the busum of my shirt, which it was tied round the waist-bag hid underneath my trousers for the purpose. But, Lor' bless yer, sometimes the blessed trade would go that aggravatin' that we would both find ourselves loaded up in no time.—*Seven Curses of London.*

Doll's christening (provincial), a party consisting entirely of ladies.

Dolly (popular), silly, foolish.

"You are a chit and a little idiot," returned Bella, "or you wouldn't make such a *dolly* speech."—*Dickens: Our Mutual Friend.*

(Society), a *dolly*, a prostitute, a street walker, short for *dolly-mop*; also a mistress.

Drink, and dance, and pipe, and play,
Kisse our *dollies* night and day.
—*Herrick: Hesperides.*

(Anglo-Indian), Hindu, *dāli*, a present of fruit, flowers, and sweetmeats; also the daily offering of flowers usually made by the molly (*mali*) called "the molly with his *dolly*." In some parts of India the *dolly* has grown into an extravagance consisting sometimes of bushels of fruit, nuts, and confectionery, with bottles of champagne and liqueurs.

(Tailors), a bit of cloth used as a sponge.

Dolly-mop (common), a tawdrily dressed servant girl, a semi-prostitute.

Dolly-shop (common), a pawnbroker's shop of the poorest and lowest description. From the Yiddish *dal* or *dol*, poor, which suggested the hanging up a *doll* as a sign for such places.

"That's a *dolly-shop*," said the greengrocer; "sort of pawnbroker's without a license, where they charge threepence in the shilling per week on what they lend you. The young 'un went there to raise a sixpence, I'll be bound."—*James Greenwood: Three Half-Crowns.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Dom (Anglo-Indian), a very low caste, representing some very old aboriginal race. It was first suggested by Charles G. Leland that the origin of the Rom or gypsies should be sought in this caste, and recent researches by Grierson have gone far to confirm the conjecture. Thus D and R are convertible in the Hindu-gypsy dialects, *e.g.*, *doi*, a spoon, and *roi*. And while *ḍom*, *ḍomni*, and *ḍomnipana* mean in India a *ḍom*, a female, *ḍom*, *romni*, *romnipana*, or *romnipen* have exactly the same meaning in gypsy as applied to gypsies and gypsydom.

Do me proud (American), equivalent to saying that one is complimented or made to feel proud.

"Sez he, 'You're an honour to your section.' Sir," I answered, "you *do me proud*."

Domino (nautical), "a common ejaculation," says Hotten, "of sailors when they receive the last lash of a flogging." The allusion may be understood from the game of dominoes.

Domino thumper (theatrical), a pianist.

Dominoes (popular), the teeth. French slang, *jeu de dominos*.

Dommerar (old cant), a variety of the mendicant tribe who pretend to be deaf and dumb.

These *dommerars* are leud and most subtyll people: the most part of these are watch men, and wyll neuer speake, vnlesse they haue extreame punishment.—*Harman: Caveat.*

Domum ball (Winchester College), a ball given by the superannuated college prefects on the evening after the "men" go home for the Midsummer holidays.

Don, a contraction of the Latin *dominus*. It is a university term for a man who has taken his master's degree. It is, however, generally confined to resident M.A.'s.

An "Oxford M.A." writes:—"This University has, I suppose, been always notorious for narrow-minded bigotry; but ought the general public to be allowed to suffer because Mr. ——, as a robust Radical, is not easily stomached of the Tory *don*?"—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

(Winchester), a master.

Dona, donah (theatrical), a girl, a woman; from the Italian. The term is also used by tramps, London roughs, &c.

Of course you've been to —— to see
the pantomime,
Where fairies sport in clothes so smart,
in manner quite divine.
Of course you've seen the Fairy Queen,
they call her Mademoiselle,
Well, perhaps you won't believe it, but
that *donah* is my gal.
—*Geo. Anthony: Mary turns the Mangle.*

Donaker (old), a cattle stealer.

Done (common), outwitted, cheated.

And immediately afterwards follows a well-known theatrical costumier, who has been *done* in the matter of fancy dresses by a gentleman connected with an amateur dramatic performance.—*The Graphic.*

Done also means exhausted, varied to "*done* up;" *done* for

himself, injured or ruined himself.

Lord Randolph is much mistaken if he supposes that it is only an aristocratic friend here and there who believes that he has *done for* himself.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Done brown (common), befooled, that is, completely done.

And they stared at each other, as much as to say,
"Hollo! Hollo! here's a rum go!
Why, captain!—my lord!—here's the devil to pay!
The fellow's been cut down and taken away!
What's to be done? We've missed all the fun!
Why, they'll laugh at and quiz us all over the town,
We are all of us *done* so uncommonly *brown.*"
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Done-over (popular), intoxicated.

Done to death (society), repeated *ad nauseam.*

Wasted a shilling in Bond Street by going to Harry Furniss' "Artistic Joke." Why Artistic? And, emphatically, why Joke? Caricature of Academy pictures *done to death* in comic journals with utmost regularity for many past years.—*Sporting Times.*

Donkey (nautical,) a seaman's box in which he keeps his clothes.

(Printers.) Compositors are sometimes called *donkeys* by pressmen by way of retaliation for calling them "pigs."

(Streets), "Who stole the *donkey?*" This was and still is a common street cry in Houndsditch and the other Hebrew quarters of London when a man wearing a white hat makes his appearance. The low Jews had or have a notion that no one but a Christian—and certainly no Jew—ever wears a white hat. They also have a saying that the Founder of Christianity stole the *donkey* on the back of which He rode into Jerusalem. Hence the expression.

(Common), "Three more and up goes the *donkey,*" that is, three pennies more and the *donkey* will go up the ladder. This phrase, used by mountebanks to denote that the performance will begin when the sum required is complete, is often said mockingly to a braggart to imply disbelief in accounts of his own wonderful performances.

Donkey-riding (popular), cheating in weight and measure.

Donny (prison), a woman. From the Italian *dona.*

Don's week (tailors), the week before a general holiday.

Don't go off before you start (American), a common exhortation to any one not to be in "too precious" or too great a hurry.

Well, hold on now, I'm goin' to tell you. *Don't go off before you start!* as de darkey said to de baulky mule.—*Brudder Bones.*

Dookering (gypsies), fortune-telling; from *doorik,* to prophesy.

Dookie (theatrical), a penny show or unlicensed theatre, usually fitted up in a large room or a cellar in a populous neighbourhood. The eminent tragedian,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Charles Dillon, emerged from one of these in his youth, and handsome Conway, once the spoiled child of fashion, admired and idolised by the belles of Bath—notably by Madame Piozzi (Johnson's Mrs. Thrale)—found a temporary refuge at one of them when driven from the patent theatres by the brutal persecution of "that ferocious literary ruffian, Theodore Hook" (Byron). There are three or four performances a night at a *dookie*, and the audience is usually composed of juvenile harlots and thieves. Many of these places of resort still flourish at the East End.

Dookin-cove, a fortune-teller; from the gypsy *dookering* or *dukkerin*, telling fortunes.

Door nail, dead as a. *Vide* DEAD AS A TENT PEG.

Door steps (Whitechapel slang), slices of bread and butter. "I say, guvnor, give us a pennorth of weak and two *door steps*."

Dope, to (American). Doping is the stupifying men with tobacco prepared in a peculiar way, as the gypsies of old were wont to use *Datura stramonium*. From old cant *dope*, a simpleton, dupe.

Nine out of ten saloons in the slums employ *doping* as a means to increase their illicit revenue.—*American Newspaper.*

Doras (Stock Exchange), South-Eastern Railway Deferred Ordinary Stock.

Dose (thieves), a sentence of imprisonment. To give a man his *dose*, or punish him, doubtless comes from a *dose* of medicine, but it is not impossible the Yiddish *dose*, *dosz* or *dasz* (Chaldaic), meaning the law, has influenced the word in this peculiar case.

(Old cant), a burglary.

Doshed, I'm, an exclamation of surprise, akin to "dashed."

Doss (tramps and popular), a bed.

As the sombre shades of evening begin to cast their darkening shadows over the earth, the majority of the troops will return to their respective quarters, and soon after nine o'clock the greater number will be comfortably tucked in *doss* (bed) for the night.—*Patterson: Life in the Ranks.*

Dr. Charles Mackay says:—"Hotten supposes it to be derived from 'doze,' as a place to sleep in; or quite as likely," he adds, "from *dorse*, the back. It is, however, most likely from neither of these, but from the Gaelic *dos*, a hedge or bush, under which tramps very often find their only available resting-place for the night—the money failing them to secure a shelter in a low lodging-house." According to Dr. Brewer, "*Doss* is a hassock full of straw, a bed—properly a straw bed. *Dossel* is an old word for a bundle of hay or straw." This derivation is the more probable, and is borne out by the French slang word *pieu*, bed, from *piau*, straw, straw bed, which has given *piausser* to sleep, modernised into *pioncer*. It also means sleep.

There is only about one of them in London where a fellow can do a comfort-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

able *doss*, and that is St. Pancras's.—*Thor Fredur: Sketches in Shady Places.*

The author of "Sketches in Shady Places" remarks:—"*Doss*, slang term for sleep—meaning to 'lie on the back.' On examination it will startle one to find how many of these vulgarisms are derived directly from the learned languages."

Dosser, the, the father of a family. From provincialism *dos*, a dandy.

Dossers (common), explained by quotation.

The "'appy *dossers*" are the wretched people who roam about the street houseless, and creep in to sleep on the stairs, in the passages and untenanted cellars of the lodging-houses with the doors open night and day.—*George R. Sims: How the Poor Live.*

Doss-house (tramps and thieves), a lodging-house, especially the common lodging-houses where beds are fourpence a night.

Dossing-crib (costermongers), a low lodging-house.

Doss, to (tramps, popular, &c.), to sleep. *Vide* Doss.

A newspaper sheet I will borrow,
And make up my face very white,
There will be a schlemozzle to-morrow,
I shall *doss* in the Square to-night.
—*Sporting Times.*

Dossy (popular), elegant; very *dossy*, in elegant style.

Joe Capp made a resolve a little while ago when on the eve of a mashing expedition to do the whole thing very *dossy*. "Ere dom it," said Joe, "yew la'ads all go about in shiny boots, steerewth an' all, and I'll have a pair, see if I woant."—*Sporting Times.*

An extremely elegant cloak was formerly termed a *dossal*. Hence perhaps the expression.

Dot (nautical), a ribbon; a *dot* drag, a watch ribbon.

Do the high, to (Oxford University), to walk up and down the High Street on Sunday evenings.

Do time, to (popular), to serve one's time in prison.

Burns is about fifty-seven years old, and has a national reputation as an expert cracksman. He has *done time* in Joliet, Sing Sing, and Nashville, Tenn. He was pardoned from the latter institution one year ago, after serving three-quarters of a ten years' sentence.—*Inter Ocean.*

Do to tie to (American), trustworthy, fit to associate with.

The only safe class of citizens, the class that will *do to tie to*, are those who believe in the condign punishment of all crime—who believe that a Government is great, not in proportion as it forgives criminals, but in proportion as it punishes them and enforces law and order. It will be a dark day for the Republic when this class shall not outnumber both of the others combined.—*Indianapolis Journal.*

Dots (American), items of information.

"Lieutenant Arnold," he continued, "remarked he could give *dots* on a great many of them; that one—a very prominent one—naming him, was in the habit of visiting a house south of the avenue twice a week. I said that is none of our business; though we might know these things officially, we do not know them in any other capacity."—*Chicago Tribune.*

(Popular), money.

Dotter (low), a penny-a-liner, a reporter.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Dottle (popular), a well-coloured black stump of a clay pipe.

Dotty (popular), cracked, silly.

She's sent away the chairs, and the carpet
off the stairs,
I'm getting just as lean as any ghost;
The bedstead and the drawers have been
sacrificed because
She went *dotty* through that dreadful
Parcels Post. —*Song.*

An appellation used for one's man. by females of the lower classes or prostitutes.

Double (thieves), a turning in a road.

I had not been at Sutton very long before I piped a slavey come out of a chat (house), so, when she had got a little way up the *double*, I pratted (went) into the house.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Double-breasted feet (tailors), club feet.

Double-double, to put on the, a process wherein a thief, having arranged with other thieves to lose a race, so that they may safely "lay" against him, deceives them and runs to win.

Double event (common), properly a technical term used on the turf when a man bets on both sides to meet either contingency —used in a slangy sense.

DEAR SIR—Unquestionably there is such a thing as luck. The other night I was under the impression that I should have two stalls for the Haymarket. I promised one to an aged Hebraic tart. As a matter of fact, I only got one, which, in the interests of your paper, I naturally filled. I thoroughly disenjoyed my evening, and the aged one won't speak to me now. Such a *double event* is only due to luck.—Yours sincerely, SIR WALTER.
The Pooferies. —*Sporting Times.*

Double-finn (low), a ten-pound note.

Double lines (nautical), ships' casualties. From the mode of entering in books at Lloyds'.

Doubles (printers). If a compositor repeats a line or sentence in composing, he is said to have made a *double*.

Doublet (thieves), a spurious diamond.

Dough, pudding at public and military schools.

Dover (hotel), a réchauffé; a corruption of "do over," or do over again.

Dovers (Stock Exchange), South-Eastern Railway Ordinary Stock.

Dowd (popular), for dowdy; showily dressed.

But a crummy old Liberal *dowd*,
With bare shoulders by acres, old boy.
—*Punch.*

Dowlas, according to Hotten, a linen-draper. *Dowlas* is a kind of towelling.

Dowlings (Shrewsbury School).

There are four or five compulsory games a week (football) known as *dowlings* (δοῦλος).—*Everyday Life in our Public Schools.*

Down (thieves), suspicion, alarm, or discovery which obliges one to desist from the business or depredation he was engaged in.

(Popular), to be "*down* in," to be at a low ebb, lacking in, out of. "*Down* in blunt," lacking money. "*Down* upon one's

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

luck," unfortunate. Perhaps originally "*down* in one's luck." To be "*down* in the mouth," dejected, disconsolate, crest-fallen.

But what have you got to say for yourself, why you should leave me here, *down in the mouth*, health, blunt, and everything else?—*Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

To be "*down* on one," to be opposed to, to lose no opportunity for punishing, to maintain constant enmity or ill-will.

My pa is a bishop of spotless renown,
On all that is naughty his reverence is *down;*
But I should delight in the sights of the town,
Yet am doomed to the utmost propriety!
—*George Anthony: The Clergyman's Daughter.*

Down a pit (theatrical), desperately smitten with a part.

Down-easter (West American), a person from the east.

A "wooden-mugged *down-easter*" with bushy eyebrows, and quick, twinkling eyes, who sang over and over again, "Oh, my little darling, I love you! Oh, my little darling, yes, I do!" had the second in charge.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Downed (English and American), conquered, tricked, cheated. Literally not getting the upper hand.

"Then this money may ease your distress—
But I hope I'm not sold, 'tis the truth you have told?"
"The truth, sir!" she murmured. "M'yes!'
But therein she lied, 'twas a stratagem "wide,'
She'd a couple of pals in the "plant;"
And the stranger was *downed.*
—*Sporting Times.*

Downer (popular), a sixpence. According to Barrow from the gypsy word *tawno*, or little one. The word seems, however, to be a variant of "deaner," which see.

Down on the bed rock (West American), penniless.

I was mighty hard up at the time—right *down on the bed rock*—and it is just possible that I may have been monkeying with the cards a little.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Downs, the (thieves), Tothill Fields' prison.

Down the road (popular), stylish, in fashionable style.

Down to the ground (English and American), thoroughly, completely; "right up to the handle," that suits me *down to the ground.* It implies probably from top to bottom.

Downy (common), to do the *downy*, to keep in bed in the morning.

This'll never do . . . cutting chapel to do the *downy.*—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

(Popular and thieves), cunning, skilful.

Upper benjamins built on a *downy* plan.—*Slang Advertisement.*

"I suppose you don't know what a prig is?" said the Dodger mournfully. "I am, I'd scorn to be anything else—so's Charley, so's Fagin, so's Sikes, so's Nancy, so's Bet. So we all are, down to the dog. And he's the *downiest* one of the lot!"—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

A "*downy* cove," a cunning fellow, one who "knows what's o'clock." An allusion to his having the upper hand in his dealings with others.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Downy-looking cove, the fair 'un; a mug like that ought to be worth a fortune to him.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

Downy Bible (tailors), corruption of Douay Bible; equivalent to "according to Cocker."

Dowry (common), a very great deal, an excess. Hotten says this is probably from the gypsy, but there is nothing like it in Romany. It is just possibly from the Yiddish *dowor*, a thing (or word); *dowrin beteilim*, superfluous things. *Dowor* would, like *res*, refer to property.

Dowser (popular), a man who tells fortunes; a kind of wizard who pretends to be able to find water or treasures by means of a divining-rod.

Doxy (canting), a mistress, a "moll," generally used in a disreputable sense, but "in the West of England women frequently call their little girls 'doxies' in a familiar and endearing sense" (Hotten). This probably is the original meaning.

Lastly I will cleave to my *doxy*, wap stiffly, and will bring her duds.—*Life of Bamfylde Moore Carew.*

Do you see anything green in my eye? (popular), Do you think that I am to be taken in or gulled. "Green" is a synonym for unsophisticated, simple-minded, the equivalent in French being *cornichon*, a gherkin, alluding to the colour.

Drab (gypsy), poison or medicine; "up to *drab*," knowing all the mysteries of poison and remedies, suggesting "up to trap" in English slang.

Drafting on the camp (Australian), explained by quotation.

Drafting on the camp, or cutting out, as it is generally called, is a very pretty performance to watch, if it is well done. First of all a small mob is cut off from the main body of the cattle, and driven gently away for a little distance, and then allowed to stand. This is the nucleus of the draft mob, for no beast will stand still a moment by itself, and one of the hands is told off to watch them. One or two men then ride in among the cattle, and draft out the ones they want, one at a time, while the rest of the hands ride round the camp and keep the cattle from breaking away.—*Finch-Hatton: Advance Australia.*

Drag (low), a woman's dress when assumed by men for a frolic or a fraud.

(Thieves), a term of three months' imprisonment, termed also "tray moons."

. . . But neither Snuffy (Reeves, the identifier) nor Mac (Macintyre) knew me, so I got a *drag*, and was sent to the Steel. —*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Well, sir, as I was saying, I only got a *drag* for that last job. Oh, I beg pardon, a *drag* means three months. Three weeks is called a *drag*, too—a cadger's *drag*.—*James Greenwood: Seven Years' Penal Servitude.*

(Popular), to go upon a *drag*, to go about for pleasure.

Also a lure, trick, stratagem.

Dragged (tailors), behind time.

Dragging (thieves), robbing property from carts or cabs. (Provincial), *dragging*-time, the evening of a country fair day, when the young men begin

kissing the girls and pull them about.

Dragging the pudding (tailors), getting the sack just before Christmas.

Draggletail (common), a dirty, drunken woman; a prostitute of the lowest class.

Dragsman (thieves), a thief who robs carriages by climbing up behind.

Drain (common), a drink.

"A *drain* for the boy," said Toby, half filling a wine-glass; "down with it, innocence."—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

When I was a young man of about two and twenty, I lodged in Little Argyll Street (out of Regent Street), and having made great friends with the night bobby, who "had a *drain*" occasionally—even when on duty—in my rooms, I could slip in or out early in the morning, or at night, in a disguise which was useful and unique. —*Sporting Times.*

Drains (American), a tributary of a large river. Washington Irving in "Astarea" thus uses the phrase: "About noon, the travellers reached the *drains* and brooks that formed the head waters of the river."

(Nautical), the cook on board ship.

Draper (old), *ale-draper*, a public-house keeper. The term seems to have a facetious origin, unless it be a corruption of "ale-dropper." Shakspeare has *ale-draper* for a publican.

Drat it (popular), a feminine objurgation expressive of contempt or anger, erroneously supposed to be a corruption of the vulgar curse, "God rot it!" It is a form of *dreadeth* or *dread* and *drad*, fear or dread (Anglo-Saxon). *Drat* occurs in Piers Plowman and Guy of Warwick.

Draw (sporting and common), a strife which is without result. From "a drawn game."

The time seems to be nigh when all "international" contests will end in a *draw*. It is the usual fate of international cricket matches.—*St. James's Gazette.*

Said of any play, performance, or exhibition when it is a success and attracts people.

Mr. ——'s new religious enterprise in the southern suburb commenced very hopefully. It was something new to the people of Wimblewood, and it proved a *draw*. The congregations were large and growing, and very soon the hall was crowded.—*Evening News.*

It has also the general meaning of great attraction.

Oh, the shades are most charmingly blended,
And the fit without flaw,
And the hat quite a *draw*.
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Cricket), a *draw* is a hit made with the surface of the bat inclined.

(American), a Western term applied to the cattle which a cowboy employé could pick up, or plainly steal, for his master.

I could have raised quite a nice bunch of cattle in a twelvemonth. Half the *draw* was worth something those times! —*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Small glades, glens, or valleys.

We had left the flats behind, and were now in a rolling country, intersected by

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

grassy *draws*, or miniature valleys, which afforded the finest kind of shelter for cattle.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

(Common), to *draw*, to take in, circumvent.

(Military), to *draw*, an abbreviation of "to *draw* the badger," explained by quotation.

A young officer on first joining was subjected to all sorts of practical joking. . . . Practical joking was indeed a recognised institution. . . . Its usual manifestations were *drawing* a man who had returned from mess early, and "making hay" of his furniture and property. . . . A party of half-a-dozen wild young subalterns, led probably by a festive captain, would, after a heavy guest night, proceed to the victim's room. . . . Perhaps the inmate would be made to stand in the middle of the room in his night-shirt, and sing a comic song. Occasionally, he would be carried downstairs, where he was made to stand on the mantelpiece of the anteroom, and order drinks all round. . . . We know of one officer, who, in his night-shirt, was made on a cold winter's night to stand outside the window, on the ledge. —*Colburn: United Service Gazette.*

(Boxing and popular), to "*draw* or tap the claret," to "*draw* the cork," to make the nose bleed.

This is technically called *drawing* the claret, and is followed up by "practice in the school-room" by a black eye and a bloody nose.—*Diprose: Laugh and Learn.*

(University and popular), to vex, to infuriate. It is undoubtedly a metaphor from "drawing a badger," *i.e.*, sending in a badger-terrier to worry him out: which in its turn is probably a metaphor from the badgers being occasionally dragged out by the bull-dog or badger-hound. So in Australia one speaks of "drawing a 'possum."

Draw a bead, to (American), the Western hunter or trapper in taking aim does so with deliberate precision. He slowly raises the "front sight," which in appearance is like a bead, to a level with the back sight, and when the two are in a line he immediately fires—hence the expression, and in colloquial use it has come to signify an attack upon one.

Draw blanks, to (American), to fail, miss, or be disappointed.

"Have you any invisible ink?"
She sighed
In a whisper
To the clerk.
"We have it, and of the best"—
He replied;
"Do you know how to make it work?"
"Oh, it isn't for me, but—
The nice young man
Who writes to me often—
Thanks!
Ma opens my letters, and,
After this,
I propose that she shall—
Draw blanks."
—*C. G. Leland.*

Draw boy (trade), a superior article marked at a low price, placed in his window by a shopkeeper to attract customers; not intended to be sold, but only to act as a decoy to cheat those greedy credulous people who like to make a good bargain. This trick does not always succeed, and may generally be foiled by any obstinate customer who will persist, in spite of refusal, to become possessed of the identical piece of merchan-

dise that has tempted his cupidity.

Drawing (studios), artists call a water-colour picture a *drawing.*

Drawing a wipe (thieves), stealing a pocket-handkerchief from a person's pocket.

Drawing his wool (tailors), vexing, or causing any one to lose his temper.

Drawing plaster (tailors), seeking to ascertain a man's intentions.

Drawing the flats (popular), imposing on simple-minded people.

The principal artists, however, in the art of *drawing the flats*, or national perspective, are lawyers, doctors, and tradesmen; each of whom has a principle of drawing peculiar to his trade or profession, which ought to be thoroughly comprehended by the amateur.—*Diprose: Laugh and Learn.*

Drawing the Queen's picture (thieves), the manufacture of base money.

Draw it mild (common), calm yourself, don't exaggerate, the reverse of "coming it too strong." It has also the signification explained by the quotation.

Drawing it mild is used when the artist wishes to circumvent or bamboozle his customers, and consists in "flummery" or "gammon," which may either be put on the individual with a camel's hair pencil or a trowel, according to his humour.—*Diprose: Laugh and Learn.*

Draw out, to (common), to elicit information or secrets from one. French, "tirer les vers du nez?"

He was a heavy, simple-looking fellow, and the older tramp was in conversation with him, and evidently "drawing him out."—*J. Greenwood: Tag, Rag, & Co.*

Draw teeth, to, to wrench knockers and door-handles from off street doors, a favourite amusement of medical students of bygone days.

Draw the planet, to (gypsies), to tell one's fortune.

Eliza Stanley, a "good-looking young gypsy," tells fortunes; in fact, Mrs. Stanley can "rule your planet." In order, however, to do this successfully she must be entrusted with gold—nothing less being heavy enough *to draw the planet.* Mrs. Stanley has been *drawing the planet* with considerable success lately; but she has at last *drawn the planet* down upon herself, and the Portsmouth magistrates have given her three months.—*The Globe.*

Draw worsted, to (tailors), to foment a quarrel.

Dress a hut, to (shopmen), to exchange articles stolen from respective employers.

Dressed to kill (American), to be over-dressed; equivalent to "to be dressed to death," "dressed to the nines."

When we see a gentleman tiptoeing along Broadway, with a lady wiggle-waggling by his side and both *dressed to kill*, as the vulgar would say, you may be sure that he takes care of Number One.—*Dow's Sermons.*

Dress in (Winchester College). The four or five next best players in a football team stand ready dressed so as to take the place of any player who is in any way injured. They are said to "*dress* in."

Dressing or **dressing down** (common), a beating, a defeat. It also means a scolding.

If ever I meet him again I will give him such a *dressing* as he has not had this many a day.—*Miss Austen: Sense and Sensibility.*

Dress-lodger (prostitute), explained by quotation.

They belong utterly and entirely to the devil in human shape who owns the den that the wretched harlot learns to call her "home." You would never dream of the deplorable depth of her destitution if you met her in her gay attire . . . she is absolutely poorer than the meanest beggar that ever whined for a crust. These women are known as *dress-lodgers.—J. Greenwood: The Seven Curses of London.*

Drink (American), a river. The "big *Drink*" is the common Western term for the Mississippi.

The old boat was a rouser—the biggest on the *Drink.—New York Opinions of the Times.*

Dripping (common), a contemptuous term applied to a cook, who is not exactly a *cordon bleu.*

Driver's pint (military), a gallon of ale. Drivers of the artillery are supposed to have large powers of absorption.

Drive, to (racing), *to drive* a horse is to urge him on with whip and spurs.

Drive turkeys to market, to (popular), to reel from one side to the other like a tipsy man. Probably from the wobbling of the birds in question.

Driz (thieves and gypsies), lace. From the gypsy *doriez*, thread or lace. "*Driz*-fencer," a person who buys or sells stolen lace. A *driz kemesa*, a shirt with a lace frill.

With my fawnied fancy and my onions gay, fake away,
With my thimble of ridge and my *driz kemesa.*
—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

Droddum (popular), the buttocks, the breech.

Dromedary (thieves), a bungler.

Drop (American), to get the *drop* on a man, also to have the *drop* on one, *vide* GET THE DROP.

Drop in the eye (old), to "have a *drop in the eye*," to be partially intoxicated.

O faith, Colonel, you must own you had a *drop in your eye*, for when I left you you were half seas over.—*Swift: Polite Conversation.*

Drop it (common), cease, leave off.

Drop one's leaf, to (common), to die. Obviously an allusion to the fall of the leaves in winter.

Drop the money purse, to (American), to incur a loss, make a mistake.

Den The Dog he sail inter Brer Coon, en right dar's whar he *drop his money-puss*, kaze Brer Coon wuz cut out fer dat bizness, an' he far'ly wipe up de face er de earf wid 'im.—*Brer Remus.*

Drop the scabs in, to (tailors), to work the button-holes.

Drop, to (thieves and popular), to leave, turn aside; to "*drop*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the main Toby," to turn off the main road. (Popular), to *drop* a man, to knock him down; to *drop* on, to arrest suddenly, to abruptly interfere or prevent, to reprove, lay the responsibility on.

The father died, the son then tried some poison for to take;
But this they stopped, and *on him dropped*, for making this sad mistake.
—*Song: Tiddle-a-Wink the Barber.*

(Common), to *drop* into, to thrash.

Dropped on (tailors), disappointed.

Dropping the anchor (racing), keeping back a horse in a race.

On the other hand, on remarking upon the wild way of riding, the visitor will probably be met with the retort, that if the jockeys did not flog their animals unmercifully, they would be accused of what is here termed in racing slang *dropping the anchor.—Sporting Times.*

Drum (popular and thieves), a house or lodging.

Call it what you like . . . *drum*, crib, owse, or whichever way you likes to put a name to it; it makes no matter to the place I mean.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

I went straight back to the old *drum* in Spitalfields, and after a drink with old friends we made up a tossing party, and I lost every penny of that ten shillings in a very little time.—*J. Greenwood: Seven Years' Penal Servitude.*

Drum means also a street, a road; in the West of England a "drong."

It may have come directly from the English gypsy *drum* (old form *drom*), which is, truly, from the Greek δρομός, a road. The origin of the old French cant word, *trime*, which has the same meaning, is probably identical.

(Old), rout or ball. From the noise of the entertainment a ball-room was called the "*drum*-room."

The bonny housemaid begins to repair the disordered *drum*-room.—*Fielding: Tom Jones.*

(Pugilistic), the ear.

(Tailors), a small workshop.

Drummer (tailors), trousers' maker.

(Old racing), a horse whose forelegs move in an irregular, unusual manner.

(American), a commercial traveller; probably from the simile of beating the drum to attract attention, or from *drum*, road.

First Drummer—"Had any fun this trip?" *Second Drummer*—"We tried to have some in Louisville, but it did not turn out very well. We painted the nose of one of the boys a brilliant red, and sent him into a revival-meeting." "They must have thought him a fit subject for conversion." "Well, no; they all rushed up to him, grabbed him by the hand, said they were glad to see him back from Europe, and asked for a puff in the *Courier Journal.—Omaha World.*

In this paragraph the editor of the *Omaha World* satirises a colleague in a rival newspaper.

(Thieves), a thief who makes his victims insensible by giving them a narcotic, or causing them to inhale chloroform. Probably a corruption of "drammer" from "dram."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Drumstick (popular), the leg; "*drumstick* cases," trousers.

Drunk (American), a state of intoxication.

Observing this, the opium master, who was still squatted on the bed, hastened to roll up a couple of cigarettes of common tobacco, and lit them by taking a whiff at each, after which he handed them to the Chinamen, who rose from the couch yawning, and, like men only half awake, staggered towards the fire, and sat regarding it in silence. They were not going yet; they had come for a *drunk*, and would probably indulge in half-a-dozen more pipes before the evening was over.—*In Strange Company.*

Drunken chalks (soldiers), good conduct badges. Derisively used, and implying that the badges have been gained not by sobriety but by the faculty of carrying liquor well.

Drury Lane vestals (old). Drury Lane, like Covent Garden, had at one time a reputation for immorality and debauchery rivalling the Haymarket and Regent Street of to-day. The neighbourhood was notorious as the resort and dwelling-place of women of the town, whether kept mistresses or common harlots. They were called *Drury Lane vestals*, and "the Drury Lane ague" was a loathsome venereal disorder.

Dry bob. *Vide* BOB.

Dry-bobbing (Eton), cricketting. "Wet-*bobbing*," the term for river sports. *Vide* BOB.

Eventually he won his case; the Georgie was excused, and "Hossy" recited the prologue with much success. It was in April, when a late and severe flood had put an end to a little attempted early *dry-bobbing*.—*Sketchy Memories of Eton.*

Dry boots (common), a sly, humorous fellow.

Dry hash (Australian), a man who will not "shout," *i.e.*, pay for drinks. *Vide* DEADHEAD.

Dry lodging (lodging-house keepers), sleeping accommodation without board.

Dry nurse, to (nautical), is said of a junior officer on board ship who advises an ignorant captain, and instructs him in his duty.

Dry shave, to (common), to annoy one by violently rubbing his chin with the fingers.

Dry up (popular, originally American), hold your tongue; varied by "curl up," "put a clapper to your mug," "stop your jaw," and other equally elegant invitations. (Theatrical), a *dry up*, a failure, the reverse of a "draw."

Whoever is responsible for the *dry up* at the Opera Comique deserves to be ostracised from theatrical society.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

To *dry up*, to stick, *i.e.*, to forget the words of a part and break down.

(Racing), to slacken pace through exhaustion; literally to be "pumped out."

At the distance he looked like winning in a canter, but *dried up* immediately afterwards.—*Sporting Times.*

(Printers), to leave off work at dinner time or at night. Sometimes to discharge, or to leave a situation.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Dry, walking (military). A dry walk, or *walking dry*, is the uninteresting and very distasteful promenade a soldier is compelled to take when he leaves barracks after working hours without a penny in his pocket.

D. T. (common), delirium tremens, used very generally by Anglo-Indians.

They get a look, after a touch of *D. T.*, which nothing else that I know of can give them.—*Indian Tale.*

D. T. also means *Daily Telegraph.*

Dub, to (thieves), to open; "*dub* the jigger," open the door. T. Harman writes this "dup."

Tower ye yander is the kene, *dup* the gygger.—*Harman: Caveat.*

Dub, a key, lock, picklock. *Dub*-lay, robbing houses by picking the locks. "Dubber," an expert lock-picker.

To *dub* a jigger is a variant of "strike a jigger," to break open a door, and *dub* in that sense is from the meaning to strike. Anglo-Saxon *dubban.* Hence *dub.*

(Popular), to "*dub* up," to pay up. Provincial, *dubs*, money. So that "*dub* up" would be the exact rendering of the French *financer*, to pay. (Anglo-Indian), *dub*, a small coin.

Dub at a knapping jigger (old cant), a turnpike-man.

Dubs (Winchester). In the slang of the boys of that public school this term has the meaning of double.

Dubsman (old cant), a jailer.

Oh! give me a chisel, a knife, or a file,
And the *dubsman* shall find that I'll do it in style!
Tol-de-rol.
—*W. H. Ainsworth: Jack Sheppard.*

Duc (printers), short for the ink-ductor or fountain that regulates the quantity given out to each impression on a machine.

Ducat, ducats (theatrical), coin, cash of any description.

(Thieves), a railway ticket. Probably a corruption of ticket.

So I took a *ducat* for Lutton in Surrey, and went a wedge-hunting.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Duck (popular), a bundle of scraps of meat sold to the poor. (Winchester), the face.

Duck, or duck's egg (cricket), no runs; an allusion to the shape of the nought.

I carried out my bat for nineteen, and Thomas his for fifteen, scored with much pluck at the pinch of the game; in fact, he won the match, for the remaining man was good for nothing else but a *duck.*—*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Stock Exchange). In the slang of the "House" a "lame *duck*" is a defaulter. The expression is old.

I may be "lame," but I shall never be a *duck*, nor deal in the garbage of the alley.—*Walpole Letters.*

A "lame *duck*" is said to "waddle out of the alley," that is, leave the Stock Exchange as bankrupt.

The gaming fools are doves, the knaves are rooks, 'Change-alley bankrupts waddle

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

out "lame *ducks.*"—*Garrick: Prologue to Foote's Maid of Bath.*

Duck, doing a (thieves), getting under the seat of a railway carriage when the ticket-collector comes round, so as to avoid paying the fare. From the ordinary meaning of to *duck*, to drop the head or person suddenly.

With a downward glance of intense scorn at me, the first speaker continued—"*Doin' a duck*, macin the rattler, ridin' on the cheap, on the odno, under the bloomin' seat, down wi' the dust, all among the daisies, where you like, and what you like, it makes no matter which, what do you think? Gentlemen in my walk of life can't always be worried."—*Sporting Times.*

Ducks (common), white linen, or drill trousers.

This young person had stipulated that Billy should do the thing proper, and be married in a pair of white *ducks*. These garments he had cheapened at a mart of "reach me down" notoriety, to the satisfaction of the feminine onlooker of his proceedings through the window.—*Savage: London.*

(Stock Exchange), Aylesbury Dairy Company shares.

(Anglo-Indian), officials of the Bombay service.

Dudder, dudsman (old), a pedlar who sold articles of clothing to country people. *Vide* DUDS.

Duddering rake (old), an extremely debauched man about town.

Dude (American), a swell or "masher," an overdressed man. Probably from the very old English cant *dude*, a garment.

Ain't you one of these *dudes* as the Colonel brings down sometimes from El Paso and Silver, that wants kettles o' hot water to twelve o'clock?—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

The word is also used in England.

Sometimes, however, a distinction seems to be established between *dude* and dandy, the former being considered to apply more to a brainless "masher."

I'm a dandy I'll have you all to know,
With the ladies I'm never rude:
This style is all my own, with it I carry tone,
I'm a dandy, but I'm no *dude.*
—*Song.*

The following quotation gives amusing evidence of the antiquity of *dude.*

A correspondent of the *New York Evening Post* shows that *dudes* are of very ancient date. In the "Eunuchus" of Terence, act iv. scene iv., l. 15, it is written:—

"Ita vistus est
Dudum quia varia veste exornatus fuit,"

which, literally translated into English, would read:—"He seemed a *dude*, because he was decked out in parti-coloured clothes," or still more literally, "in a vest of many colours."

Dude hamfatters (American), a sarcastic allusion to the swell and "masher" pork-raisers. A large number are located not a hundred miles from Chicago.

It seems that the *dude hamfatters*, after trying various games to skip unseen, conceived the idea of making up as a couple of well-dressed women.—*New York National Police Gazette.*

Dudeman or **dudman**, a scarecrow (Halliwell).

Dudette, dudinette (American), a very young girl, a mere chit,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

who affects the airs and style of a belle.

Dudikabin (gypsy), "to lel *dūdi-kabin*," lit., to take lightment. This word was for a long time kept a great secret by the gypsies, and one of them was reprimanded by his friends for telling the writer. It means the making a clean sweep of everything valuable in the house, under pretence of propitiating the planets, or of finding and attracting hidden treasure. This latter is more specially the *hukani boro*, or "great humbug." It appears to be connected with the English slang-equivalent "lightment," from to lighten, to relieve of one's property, to rob.

Dudine (American), a lady "dude."

Long-handled eye-glasses, and the *dudines* who buy and use them.—*Philadelphia Times.*

Duds (thieves), clothes. Scottish *dud*, a rag.

As I was walking down Cheapside a man came up to me and said, "Look here, mate, the sooner you sling them *duds* away the longer you will keep out of quod. I have been following behind two private clothes detectives, and they spotted you by your togs, so take my tip to get rid of them.—*Evening News.*

Also *duddies.*

Then he took out a little knife,
Let a' his *duddies* fa',
And he was the brawest gentleman
That stood among them a'.
—*Old Ballad: We'll gang nae Mair a Roving.* [*Attributed to King James V. of Scotland.*]

T. Harman uses the word with the meaning of linen clothes.

We wyll fylche some *duddes* off the ruffemans, or myll the ken for a lagge of dudes.—*Caveat.*

I.e., "We will steal some linen off the hedges, or rob a parcel of the same from the house."

(Old), to "sweat *duds*," to pawn clothes. A "dudman" is provincial for a scarecrow; literally a ragged fellow.

Duff (thieves), spurious. Men at the *duff*, passers of false jewellery. To *duff*, to sell spurious goods, often under the pretence of their having been smuggled, stolen, or found. In London attempts at *duffing* are often made by rascals who offer for sale a worthless meerschaum pipe or ring, pretending they have just found it. *Vide* DUFFER.

Duffer (common). This word has two opposite meanings. A rank swindler, a clever cheat—"a word in frequent use in 1701 to express cheats of all kinds." In Yiddish every word which means clever or wise also means roguery; and in Yiddish *doffer* is a shrewd, clever, very crafty man (adjective *doff*, from *tov* or *toff*, good); Dutch thieves' slang *doffer*, a tramp, a seller of forged pictures.

. . . Nor did it mark him out as the prey of ring-droppers, pea and thimble-riggers, *duffers*, louters, or any of those bloodless sharpers, who are perhaps a little better known to the police.—*Dickens: Martin Chuzzlewit.*

A worthless person, a stupid man, an awkward, unskilful fellow, a coward.

What an awful *duffer* he is. I do not believe he hit a thing to-day; besides, he is so dangerous.—*Saturday Review.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

In this latter sense the word is connected with *daffe*, Anglo-Saxon, a fool; *daffam*, a silly person (Wright); *daff*, a coward; *daft*, of weak intellect. Anglo-Saxon *deáf*, "surdus, absurdus, stolidus," from *dufan*. *Deaf* is in most of its Indo-European forms synonymous with stupid or stólid. Gothic *daufs*, dull or foolish.

(Popular), spurious money.

I very quietly slipped four *duffers* among six good bobs, and accommodated her with the change she wanted. It came off all right, so I've four bob left for drinks; see! —*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Nautical), a woman who assists smugglers.

Duffer out, to (Australian), mining slang. A reef is said to *duffer out* when the gold is nearly or quite exhausted.

He then reported to the shareholders that the lode had *duffered out*, and that it was useless to continue working.—*Advance Australia.*

Dug-out (American), a canoe hollowed out of the trunk of a tree. The term seems common throughout the New World, as the Rev. W. Cartwright in his "Autobiography" says, "If by chance we got a *dug-out* to cross in ourselves and swim our horses by, it was quite a treat."

Also a rough kind of structure built over an excavation.

The new house was at best but a modest little structure, but Mayne viewed the placing of each shingle and the driving of each nail with profound satisfaction. In the sparsely settled neighbourhood, where *dug-outs* and "shacks" predominated, a "frame" house, even though small and unpretending, was a structure of no mean importance. When it became known that Jack Mayne intended to plaster the "front room" it was pretty thoroughly agreed that reckless extravagance characterised Mayne's house building.—*Sporting Times.*

Duke Humphrey (common), "to dine with *Duke Humphrey*," to go without dinner. Dr. Brewer, in his "Dictionary of Phrase and Fable," says:—"Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, son of Henry IV., was renowned for his hospitality. At his death it was reported that a monument would be erected to him in St. Paul's, but his body was interred at St. Albans. When the promenaders left for dinner, the poor stay-behinds who had no dinner used to say to the gay sparks who asked if they were going, that they would stay a little longer and look for the monument of the 'good duke.'" "Dining with the cross-legged knights" (the stone effigies of the Round Church) had the same signification. Hotten has the following explanation:—"Some visitors were inspecting the abbey where the remains of Humphrey Duke of Gloucester lie, and one of them was unfortunately shut in, and remained there *solus* while his companions were feasting at a neighbouring hostelry. He was afterwards said to have dined with *Duke Humphrey*, and the saying eventually passed into a proverb." *Vide* Halliwell, who gives a better origin, and one supported by all contemporary writers.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Duke of limbs (common), a tall, spindle-shanked man; the phrase also implies awkwardness and uncouthness.

Duke of York (rhyming slang), walk or talk.

Dukes or **dooks** (popular and thieves), the hands; from the gypsy *dūk, dook*, which refers to palmistry; "it is in his dook," meaning "it is in his fate," became "it is in his hand."

Then he began to push me about, so I said I would not go at a if he put his *dukes* (hands) on me. Then he rammed my nut (head) against the wall and shook the very life out of me.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

To grease one's *duke*, to bribe, to pay.

So the next day I went to him, and asked him if he was not going to grease my *duke.—Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

To put up one's *dukes*, to fight, to box.

No doubt Britain's foes will be thrown into throes
Of utter dismay and despair, too;
Finding those near the throne are to prize-fighting prone;
And are ready to fight "on the square," too.
Now that royalties spar, all the swells, near and far,
Will do ditto—without any warning;
And without any flukes, will all put up their *dukes*,
And try punching the bag every morning.
—*Fun.*

Dukey. *Vide* DOOKIE.

Dūkk, dook (gypsy), breath.

Mandy nashered my *dūkk* a prasterin pāller the jūva.—*An Old Gypsy.*

I.e., "I lost my breath running after the girl."

A spirit; that which inspires divination or palmistry; the demon of Socrates.

I find that the *dook* is like myself, very much given to lying.—*George Borrow: Lavengro.*

Also pain, vexation, annoyance. (According to the primitive Shamanic faith, all pain was caused by evil spirits.)

Dūkker, dūk, dook, dooker (gypsy), to tell fortunes, to pain, grieve, chide; *dūkkerben*, grief, trouble, a fault; *dūkkeripen* or *dūkkerpen*, fortune-telling, augury; *dūkkero*, sorrowful. Hindu, *dokh*, fault.

When I pens adovo I pens a tácho *dukkerin.—George Borrow: Lavengro.*

Mūkk mengy *dukker* your kók'ro, rýa?
So?' Mándy cant pen lis-mándy can.
Mā tūte sáv 'at *dūkkerin*, pála—
Adóvo sos sār o tem began.

"Shall I tell your fortune too, sir?
What? I can't! Oh, yes, I can.
Don't you laugh at fortune-telling,
'Twas with that the world began."
—*Professor E. H. Palmer*

Dull in the eye (popular), intoxicated.

Dull swift (old), said of one long gone on errands or messages.

Dumb-cow (Anglo-Indian), also *dumb-cowed* (participle), to browbeat, to cow, set down.

"This is a capital specimen of Anglo-Indian dialect. *Dam khāna*, 'to eat one's breath,' is a Hindu idiom for 'to be silent.' Mr. Hobson-Jobson converts this into a transitive verb, to *damkhās*, and both spelling and meaning being affected by English suggestions of sound, this comes in Anglo-Indian use to imply *cowing* and silencing" (Anglo-Indian Glossary.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Dumfogged (literary), confused.

Dummock (low), the fundament; otherwise known as "blind cheek."

Dummy (popular), anything fictitious or sham, an individual of vacant mind, and one bereft of speech. (Tailors), a piece of cloth rolled tight and saturated with oil; used for rubbing clothes of a very hard nature in places required to be cut, also the shears, to make cutting more easy. (Thieves), a pocket-book. Originally a book full of *sham* notes.

He is caught—he must "stand and deliver;"
Then out with the *dummy*, and off with the bit,
Oh, the game of High Toby for ever!
—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

A "*dummy*-hunter," a pick-pocket, whose speciality is to steal pocket-books.

No *dummy*-hunter had forks so fly,
No knuckler so deftly could fake a cly.
—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

Dummy daddle dodge (thieves), picking pockets in an omnibus under cover of a sham hand.

Asked by the friendly warder what he thought of the *dummy daddle dodge*, Mr. Mobbs said he rather thought that game was played out. A woman, he proceeded to explain, can work with a *dummy daddle* in an omnibus or a railway carriage much better than a man, because, without appearing conspicuous, she can wear any kind of loose shawl or cloak as concealment for her real hand.—*J. Greenwood: Daily Telegraph.*

Dump fencer (street), a man who hawks buttons. *Dump* is an old word for a leaden medal.

Dumpoke (Anglo-Indian), a duck, boned, baked, and highly seasoned. From the Persian *dam-pukht*, "air-cooked," or baked. In English gypsy, *pukht* would be *pekkerd*, from the same root.

These eat highly of all flesh *dumpoked*, which is baked with spice in butter.—*Fryer.*

Dumps (popular), money. *Vide* DUMP FENCER.

May I venture to say when a gentleman jumps
In the river at midnight for want of the *dumps*,
He rarely puts on his knee-breeches and pumps.
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Dung (workmen), one who is compelled to accept lower wages after being out on strike. The word is the preterite of the old English verb to "ding," to beat down, one who is *dung* or beaten, as in the old proverb, still termed Scottish, "It's a sair *dung* bairn that maunna greet." (Tailors), "*dunging* it" is said of a traitor to the trade.

Dungaree (Anglo-Indian), common, coarse, low, vulgar. The name of a disreputable suburb of Bombay, and also of a coarse blue cloth used for sailors' clothing.

Dunnage (popular), clothes or baggage.

Dunnakin (American thieves), a chamber-pot. In England, the water-closet.

Durham man (old slang), a knock-kneed man was so called, and

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

was said to grind mustard between his knees.

Durrynacker (prison), female hawker. From the gypsy *dori* or *doriez*, threads or lace.

Dust (common), money. Possibly for gold *dust*.

"Put it down to the bill" is the fountain of ill,
'Tis this has the shopkeepers undone.
Bazaars never trust, so down with your *dust*,
And help us to diddle all London.
—*Grimaldi's Bazaar.*

The term is old, it occurs in the "Life of Ken," 1690. "Down with the *dust*," pay the money.

If they did intend to trade with Christ they must "down with the *dust*" instantly, for to his knowledge the Papists did offer a vast sum of money for England's Christ. —*Eachard's Observations*, 1671.

He who giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord. If you like the security "down with the *dust*."—*Sermon attributed to the Rev. Rowland Hill.*

Duster (tailors), a sweetheart.

Dust Hole (common), the Queen's Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, so called from the fact that half a century ago, when under the management of Mr. Glossop, the débris of the theatre was swept daily under the pit, and suffered to accumulate, to the great inconvenience of the audience, until the *dust hole* was crowded to repletion. The first French plays acted in London were given at this theatre, which, after many vicissitudes of fortune, became fashionable as the Prince of Wales', and is now the property of the Salvation Army.

Dust out of, to (American), to leave or depart.

Mother—Johnnie, brush the dust off your boots. *Johnnie*—Is that the kind of dust papa was talking to governess about? *Mother*—What did he say? *Johnnie*—He said: "Dost thou love me, Agnes?" *Mother*—No, it was not, Johnnie; but Agnes will *dust out* of here to-morrow morning.—*Boston Globe.*

Dust, with the sense of go away, is also used in England.

Dust, to (West American), to dismount by allowing oneself to roll off to the soft ground.

Frequently, instead of quitting them when they were turned loose, the boys would sit astride of the steers they had been holding, and "stay with them" as they went bucking down the corral towards their fellows, until the proximity of these latter warned the riders to roll off and *dust*.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Dustoor, dustoory (Anglo-Indian), a commission paid, generally as a kind of bribe. Persian and Hindu, *dastur*, custom.

"That commission or percentage on money passing in any cash transaction which sticks to the fingers of the agent of payment" (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

Dusty (popular), "not so *dusty*," not so bad.

Three red clocks, two pusses, and a white slang—I ain't done so *dusty*!—*Punch.*

Dusty, gritty, or **stony broke** (popular), without a sou.

"I've been as flash as they make 'em in my time, and you'll 'ardly believe it"—this in a hoarse whisper to me—"I've

been that broke—*stony, gritty, dusty broke*—you understand, as I'd 'ave nicked the broads out of a pal's kick, if they was there, and sold 'em for the price of 'alf a pint."—*Sporting Times.*

Dutch (military), to "do a *Dutch*," to run away, to desert. Probably an allusion to "*Dutch* courage."

(Popular), a *Dutch*, a wife.

Now he'd not a brown, nor a ftiend in town,
In fact he was quite undone;
He made a vow he'd never row
With his old *Dutch* again.
So part by hook, and part by crook,
He tramped it back to London.
—*Mitchell: Jimmy Johnson's Holiday.*

Dutch auction (cheap Jacks), a method of selling goods without incurring the penalties for selling without a license.

Dutch clock, a bed-pan is so called by nurses.

Dutch feast (common), a dinner at which the host gets drunk before his guests.

Dutchman's breeches (nautical), two streaks of blue in a cloudy sky.

Dutch treat (American), a dinner or drinking where every man pays for himself.

Dying in a horse's nightcap (popular), being hung. A horse's nightcap, *i.e.*, a halter.

E

EAR (American), to get up on one's *ear*, to rouse oneself to a great effort.

They called me bully boy, altho' I've seen nigh threescore years,
And said that I was lightning when I got up on my *ear*.
—*Words and their Uses.*

Earl of Cork (Irish), the ace of diamonds. According to Carleton, "It is the worst ace and the poorest card in the pack, and is called the *Earl of Cork* because he is the poorest nobleman in Ireland."

Early riser (popular), the vulgar name for an efficient aperient pill. The application of the term is obvious.

Ear-mad (medical), the thickened ear (in its upper portion) found in some cases of insanity; hence the name.

Earth bath (old), a grave; to take an *earth bath*, to be dead and buried. Also to take a "ground sweat."

Earthquake (American), *bottled earthquake*, spirits, intoxicating liquor of any kind. So called from the disorderly motions attendant on intoxication, or an abbreviation of "*earthquake* protector."

Bottled earthquakes are just as bad as the other kind. Scratch a *bottled earthquake* and you'll find a cocktail.—*Chicago Tribune.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Earthquake protector (American), explained by quotation.

It was a delicious beverage, not unconnected with old Jamaica, and sent a delicious glow through every vein. . . .

"But how, pray, does this protect me from an earthquake?"

"Well, sir," replied the barkeeper, "if you'll only drink enough of it, you won't care a continental whether the earthquake comes or not."—*New York Star.*

Earwig (thieves), a clergyman.

Earwigging (common), a rebuke in private.

Ease, to (popular and thieves), to rob. French slang, *soulager.*

Eason, to listen (New York Slang Dictionary). *Easen* is an English provincialism for eaves; hence *eason*, from eavesdropping.

East and south (rhyming slang), the mouth.

Eastery (cheap Jacks), explained by quotation.

Sometimes, when in a country where there were large villages or small towns, we used to work what was called *eastery* or private business.—*Hindley: Life and Adventures of a Cheap Jack.*

Easy (thieves), "make the cull *easy*," kill the fellow.

Eat a fig (rhyming slang), to "crack a crib," *i.e.*, to commit a burglary.

Eat one's terms, to (legal), to prepare for the bar; to attend the requisite number of dinners in hall each term.

Eat, to (American), a Western expression, meaning not to consume but to provide food.

Captin, do you *ate* us or do we *ate* ourselves? *Eat* yourselves, to be sure.—*American Story.*

Eats his head off (common), is said of a horse that remains for a long time in the stable. Sometimes of servants or others who have little to do.

Eaves (American thieves), a hen-roost.

Eavesdropper (American thieves), a chicken thief, or a low sneak or thief generally.

Ebenezer (Winchester College), a ball at racquets that hits the line and rises high into the air.

Ebony (popular), a bit of *ebony*, a negro.

Ebony optics (pugilistic), black eyes; *ebony optics* albonized, black eyes painted white.

Edge (tailors), "stitched off the *edge*" refers to a glass or pint not filled to the top; "side *edge*," whiskers. A "short top *edge*" is a turn-up nose.

Edgenaro (back slang), orange.

Eggshaw (Anglo-Indian), brandy; probably from the name of a brand.

Egyptian hall (rhyming slang), a ball.

Eighter (prison), an eight-ounce loaf.

"Do you eat all your chuck?"

"No, I have two *eighters* in my cell now."

"I shall be orderly to-morrow. Sling me a toke."—*Evening News.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Ekom (back slang), a "moke" or donkey.

Elbow crooker (thieves), a hard drinker; from the phrase to "crook one's elbow," to drink. In French, "lever le coude," said of a hard drinker.

Elbower (thieves), a fugitive; one that "elbows," *i.e.*, turns the corner, or gets out of sight.

Elbow grease (popular), hard work.

Elbow-scraper (nautical), fiddle player.

Elbow shaker (old), gambler with dice. From the expression "to shake one's elbow."

Elbow, to (thieves), to turn a corner, to get out of sight.

Electrified (American), excited with liquor.

Elephant (thieves), a victim possessed of much money.

(Common), the *elephant*, originally an Americanism. We might compile a volume of the amusing explanations and illustrations of this expression which have appeared in American newspapers. To have seen *the elephant* is to have had a full experience of life or of a certain subject or object. There is a book by "Doesticks" (Mortimer Thompson), called "Seeing the Elephant," devoted to describing "life" in New York, of which a reviewer remarked that *the elephant*, according to Mr. Thompson, appeared to be bad brandy. When a man had made an unfortunate speculation, he would say that he had not only seen *the elephant* but felt him kick. The phrase seems to have originated in an old ballad of a farmer who, while driving his mare along the highway, met with a showman's elephant, which knocked him over, and spilt his milk and destroyed his eggs. The farmer consoled himself for his loss by reflecting that he had at least "seen *the elephant*."

And he said, "Now in future no one can declare
That I've not seen *the elephant*—neither the mare."

In 1849–1850, to have been to California and returned was to have seen *the elephant*.

Those who sold the bonds had vanished, those who hadn't held the town,
Little knew they of its glory over seas or great renown,
They had nothing of the fruitage—though alas! they held the plant,
Nothing saw they of the picture save indeed *the elephant*.
He who had been in the background now came rushing to the fore,
Terribly he trampled on them—very awful was his roar.
—*The Rise and Fall of Gloryville.*

Montaigne strangely enough seems to suggest that "to see *the elephant*" was in his time connected with experience of life. He cites the following from "Arrien. Hist. Ind.," c. 17.

"Aux Indes Orientales la chasteté y estant en singulière recommandation, l'usage pourtant souffroit qu'une femme mariée se peust abandonner à qui luy presentoit un *élephant*, et cela avec

quelque gloire d'avoir esté estimée à si hault prix."

This then was the Indian way of "seeing *the elephant*," and of paying, as at the present day, an enormous price for the sight.

(Common), a girl is said to "have seen *the elephant*" when she has lost her chastity. French, "avoir vu le loup."

Elephant's trunk (rhyming slang), drunk.

Elevation, explained by quotation.

"They as dinnot tak' spirits down thor, tak' their pennord o' *elevation* then—women-folk especial."

"What's *elevation*?" . . .

"Opium, bor' alive, opium."—*C. Kingsley: Alton Locke.*

"Elevated" is English for intoxicated in a slight degree.

Emperor (common), "drunk as an *emperor*." The quintessence of intoxication. Ten times "as drunk as a lord." The French say "saoul comme trente mille hommes." (Thieves), hence a drunken man.

A pinch for an *emperor's* slang. He was in his altitudes, and we pinched his thimble, slang and onions.—*On the Trail.*

Empty bottle (Univ. Cantab.), a pensioner. Bristed, in his "Five Years in an English University," says, "They are popularly denominated *empty bottles*, the first word of the appellation being an adjective, though were it taken as a verb there would be no untruth in it."

End (American), "to be all on *end*," to be very angry or irritated. From rising up, or jumping up in a rage. Also applied to a state of excitement, especially of anticipation. "They were all on *end* to see the President go by."

Endacott, to (journalistic), to act like a constable of that name who arrested a woman whom he thought to be a prostitute.

Constable Endacott. . . . Though he might base a claim to a pension on literary grounds, as having enriched the English language with a new word (*to Endacott*, V.A.), it is not probable that an economical Government would value this addition to the dictionary very highly.—*Evening News.*

The expression lived "ce que vivent les roses, l'espace d'un matin," probably on account of certain facts proved in the course of a subsequent investigation, and which showed that the constable's name ought not to go down to posterity as that of an oppressor of womankind.

Ends, at loose (familiar). When a business is neglected, or its finances are in a precarious condition, it is said to be *at loose ends.*

Ensign bearer (military), a man with a red and blotchy face arising from tippling.

Enthuse (American), to excite enthusiasm, to be enthusiastic. A favourite word with "gushing" clergymen. "An object large enough to *enthuse* an angel's soul." *Enthused*, excited with liquor.

NAWM ARCHIVE INDIA

Entire figure, the (American), to the fullest extent. A simile naturally derived from expressing sums of money by numerals or "figures." Also the "big figure," the "whole figure."

E. P. (clerical), a very common abbreviation, means the "Eastward Position," adopted in portions of the Communion Service.

Epsom races (rhyming slang), a pair of braces.

Equal to the genuine Limburger (American), a standard simile for anything which is asserted to attain the maximum of bad smells. The German Limburger cheese has, to those who are not accustomed to it, an intensely disagreeable odour.

Equipped (thieves), rich, well dressed.

Eriffs, young thieves (New York Slang Dictionary).

"It's the gait all them *eriffs* dances," observed the one-eyed man. "I remember once I was in cahoots with a cove like that."—*On the Trail.*

Esclop (back slang), police; pronounced "slops."

Euchred (common), played out; from a game at cards.

Europe morning (Anglo-Indian). When a man gets up late, that is, at nine or ten o'clock, he is said to have a *Europe morning*. The expression explains itself.

Evaporate, to (common), to run away, to vanish.

Everlasting staircase, the (thieves). The treadwheel, originally invented by Mr. Cubitt in 1817, and first used in Brixton Prison, fell somewhat into desuetude, but has been revived in some prisons under the Government régime, as an instrument both of utility for grinding corn, raising water, &c., and of real hard labour. The labour varied most unequally, *e.g.*, from 7500 feet ascent in the day in Lewes prison to 14,200 feet in Boston. This inequality and consequent injustice has now been removed.

Everton coffee (rhyming slang), coffee.

Everything is lovely, and the goose hangs high (American), a phrase which became known during the war, and which formed the burden of a popular song. It signified that all is going well. The goose is a synonym for terror or alarm. Thus, on the stage, "to be goosed" is to be hissed, and when *the goose hangs high* it is equivalent to saying that there is no defeat to fear. The phrase originated in Philadelphia.

Ewe (old), a white *ewe*, a handsome woman; an old *ewe*, an old woman.

Exam. (schools), short for examination.

Excruciators (London), the new-fashioned boot or shoe painfully pointed.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Joyfully the lads bore T'Owd Mon off to Blurton's and got him a real shiny pair of pointed *excruciators* (small thirteens, T'Owd 'Un usually takes calf fourteens). *Sporting Times.*

Execution day (common), washing day amongst the lower classes.

Expecting (society), a common expression for a woman being in the family way; it is an abbreviation for expecting her confinement.

Explaterate (American), to enlarge upon, to hold forth, to explain and illustrate fully.

On this I will *explaterate*,
And all my views profusely state.
—*Joel Boodler's Campaign.*

From the obsolete English to *explate*, to unfold.

Extrumps (Winchester College), a corruption of extempore. To "go up to books *extrumps*" is to go up without having prepared one's lesson. "Extrumpere," a jocose perversion of extempore, has been used by old English authors.

Eye limpet, another name for an artificial eye.

Eye-openers (American), one of the many concoctions drunk at American bars.

In the vestibule of each refreshment-room there is an American bar, where visitors may indulge in juleps, cocktails, cobblers, rattlesnakes, gum ticklers, *eye-openers*, flashes o' lightning, brandy smashes, stone fences, and a variety of similar beverages.—*E. MacDermott: The Popular Guide to the International Exhibition of 1862.*

Also a general term for any kind of intoxicating drink.

(Society), is said of anything out of the way.

Of course, there were the usual *eye-openers* in the way of dress.—*Modern Society.*

Eye water (popular), gin.

F

FACE (popular), credit at a public-house. From one's physiognomy being known there; or from *face*, effrontery, confidence. "To run one's *face*," to obtain credit by effrontery. "He has no *face* but his own" (Grose), he has no coin (*faces* in French slang) in his pocket.

Face entry (theatrical), the entrée or freedom of access to a theatre, from the face being known.

Face-making (popular), begetting children.

Facer (pugilistic), a blow on the face.

While showers of *facers* told so deadly well
That the cracked jaw-bones cracked as they fell.
—*T. Moore.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Blogg, starting upright, tipped the fellow a *facer.—Ingoldsby Legends.*

(Society), a metaphorical knock down; severe blow.

The news of his having hit his leg yesterday has proved a *facer.—Sporting Times.*

(Popular), a tumbler of whisky punch.

(Irish), a dram, a full glass. An old word for a bumper of wine.

(Thieves), a man who places himself directly in the way of persons in pursuit of his accomplices. Formerly *facer* meant an impudent fellow.

Face the music, to (popular), a phrase no doubt of theatrical origin, and alluding to the trepidation sometimes felt upon facing the audience. The orchestra is generally placed in front of the audience, and consequently nearest the stage. *To face the music* is therefore to meet an emergency. Sometimes it means "to show one's hand," *i.e.*, to make plain one's purpose.

(American), to boldly meet a severe trial; to nerve oneself up to go through a disagreeable emergency. Originally army slang, applied to men when drummed out to the tune of the "Rogue's March."

Facie (tailors), the man working in front of one. "*Facie* on the bias," the man working in front of one to the right or left. "*Facie* on the two thick," the individual working immediately behind one's face-mate.

Facings (tailors), "silk *facings*" are beer-droppings on the breast of a coat.

Facings, put one through the (popular), in military parlance the regular drill—"Face!" "Right about face!" &c. In popular slang, to give one a scolding or call him to account.

We were scarcely wed a week
When she *put me through my facings*,
And wolloped me—and worse;
She said I did not want a wife,
I ought to have had a nurse.
—*F. Egerton: If my wife would let me.*

Facing the knocker (tailors), begging.

Fad cattle (old slang), women of easy virtue.

Fadge (popular), a corruption of farthing.

Fadger (glaziers), a glazier's frame.

Fae-gang, a gang of gypsies. Faa was a common name for gypsies—not assumed, but often accepted by them. "Johnnie Faa, the Gipsy Laddie," is the title of an ancient popular ballad, recounting how a handsome vagrant of that name ran off with the Countess of Cassilis, who was enamoured of him for his manly, hearty, and winning manners. Robert Faa is the present king of the Scottish gypsies at Yetholm.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Fag, to (thieves), to beat. Expressive of the trouble in giving a beating.

Fagger (thieves), a small boy put into a window to rob the house or to open it for others to rob; called also "little snakesman."

Fagot (popular), a bundle of bits of the "stickings" (hence probably its name), sold for food to the London poor (Hotten). But more probably from "fag-end." Also a term of contempt applied to a woman or child with reference originally to the slovenly garments, the person being compared to a bundle of sticks loosely put together. The French *fagoté* signifies dressed in ill-fitting, badly matched garments.

Fagot briefs, bundles of worthless papers tied up with red tape carried by unemployed barristers in the back rows of the courts to simulate briefs (Hotten).

Fagot vote (politicians), votes given by electors expressly qualified for party purposes (Dr. Brewer).

Evidently from the old term *fagots*, "dummy" soldiers or sailors who were hired to appear at muster and fill up the companies or crews.

Fagot, to, an expression proper to robbers; that is, to bind hand and foot (Bayer's Dictionary, 1748). It is curious to note the coincidence with the French cant *fagot*, a convict; from the circumstance that convicts were all bound to one common chain when on their way to the hulks.

Faints, in vogue amongst schoolboys to express a wish temporarily to withdraw from participation in the particular sport or game being played. It is generally understood that this can only take place while in bounds or out of danger. It is somewhat similar to the now almost obsolete term "wicket" in cricket.

Fair and square (common), honest, honesty. .

She beat him *fair and square* in a two miles and a quarter gallop.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Also *fair, square, and above ground.*

I will have none of this hole and corner business. . . . I wish all the criticisms in my paper to be *fair, square, and above ground.—Anthony Trollope.*

Fairlick (Harvard University), a football term used when the ball is fairly caught or kicked beyond bounds.

"*Fairlick!*" he cried, and raised his dreadful foot,
Armed at all points with the ancestral boot. —*Harvardiana.*

Fair rations (sport), fair play, fairness.

Their protest was ludicrous in its insignificance, *fair rations* out of the question. —*Toby.*

Fair trade (thieves), smuggling.

Faithful, one of the (common), a tailor giving long credit. As

this trade is in London, at all events, almost entirely in the hands of the Jews, they are sarcastically said to have joined the ranks of the *faithful:* or this when they allow long credit to a customer, a practice which, it is to be feared, also often makes the old saying concerning them literally true—"his faith has made him unwhole," *i.e.*, bankrupt.

Fake, a very ancient cant word, possibly from *facere*, used in the honest sense of to do, to make, originally, but afterwards in the dishonest one. The word was popularised by a song introduced in Mr. Ainsworth's novel "Rookwood." It is used with various significations, and in this respect exactly corresponds to the verb *faire* of the French slang.

(Thieves), to rob.

All who in Blois entertain honest views,
Have long been in bed, and enjoying a snooze,
Nought is waking save mischief and *faking*,
And a few who are sitting up brewing or baking. —*Ingoldsby Legends.*

To do, to make, to cheat, swindle, beg, malinger or counterfeit illness or sores, to escape labour and gain the diet of the infirmary.

Having set his mind upon shirking all work, he announces his intention to *fake* the doctor and "work" the parson.—*Evening News.*

To continue, go on.

In box of the stone peg I was born,
Of a hempen widow the kid forlorn;
Fake away!
—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

"*Fake* away, there's no down," go on, there is no one looking. To "*fake* a screeve," to draw up a false document, a begging letter; to "*fake* one's slangs," to file through one's irons; to "*fake* a cly," to pick a pocket.

(American thieves), in addition to the usual meaning, cutting out the wards of a key.

"*Faking* the sweetener," kissing.

(Sporting), to hocus or poison. To insert ginger under a horse's tail.

(American and English), false report, deception, pretence, blind.

. . . And that naming the house in the ridiculous way it was named was merely a *fake* to draw attention to it.—*J. Greenwood: Tag, Rag, & Co.*

The report sent out . . . does not bear investigation. It is a *fake*, and nothing else.—*Daily Inter Ocean.*

"I heard your brother had gone to New York."

"Oh, that was a *fake*. He was badly punished at football, and is lying low to fetch up."—*The Youth's Companion.*

Also invention, contrivance.

That was one of the best *fakes* of the time, and there was lots of money in it too.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Card-sharpers), a dodge.

Now to learn some new *fakes* with the broads.—*Sporting Times.*

(Stage), *fake* is another term for "make up" of a character; to *fake*, to paint one's face.

Or ask what their age is, they'll scornfully say—
"I do not *fake* (and smiling), I'm twenty to-day."
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

In conjuring, any mechanical contrivance for the performance of a trick. So also in a show, if, for example, an apparently ordinary dinner plate had a small nick in it to help its being caught on the point of a knife after being tossed into the air, the plate would be *faked*. Again, bustling through a show of any kind under difficulties artfully concealed from the spectators is *faking* it.

"*Faking* the duck," adulterating, dodgery.

Fakeman Charley, the mark of the owner of a stolen object.

Fakement, a word of general application among the lower orders for the doing of anything; trade, profession, contrivance, invention.

The *fakement* conn'd by knowing rooks
Must be well known to you.
—*The Leary Man.*

(Thieves and vagrants), a false begging petition.

Lawyer Bob draws *fakements* up; he's tipped a peg for each.—*Ducange Anglicus: The Vulgar Tongue.*

Any dishonest practice, swindling dodge, forgery.

I cultivated his acquaintance . . . and put him up to the neatest little *fakement* in the world; just showed him to raise two hundred pounds . . . just by signing his father's name.—*H. Kingsley: Geoffrey Hamlyn.*

(Theatrical), paint for the face.

. . . opportunity allowed her
To apply the *fakement* when he didn't twig.
—*Sporting Times.*

Fakements (theatrical), small properties or make-up, such as a hare's foot, an old white stocking-top, piece of burnt cork, &c., all you can get in a "make-up" box, a cigar-box. Certain pantomimists are accustomed to call the properties used in the harlequinade *fakements*. A good story of Macready, whose loathing for the very name of slang was notorious, is told in connection with this subject. When starring in *Hamlet* at Newcastle-on-Tyne, the manager was short-handed, and an unfortunate clown was pressed into the service for Francisco, who speaks the first line of the play. The poor pantomimist was waiting in great anxiety for the halberd or partizan he was to carry while mounting guard, and the property-man who ought to have provided it was conspicuous by his absence. The great Mac., grim and growling, and more atrabilarious than usual, opened fire with—

"Er—er—are we to stay here all day? Begin, sir, begin."

"Can't begin, guv'nor," quoth the clown.

"Er—why not, sir? er—why not?"

"'Cos I ain't got my *fakements*."

"Your what, sir? Good heavens! your what?"

"My *fakements*. Here, I say, Sully" (catching sight of the property-man, who had just put in an appearance), "hand over the *fakements*."

NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF INDIA

The great Mac., thoroughly nonplussed, growled to the property-man—

"By all means, Mr. Cully, hand over the gentleman's *fakements*, and let us begin the rehearsal."

Faker (popular and thieves). This word is applied to a great variety of men—pedlars, workmen, thieves. From "to fake." In Dutch slang *fokker* is a thief; *ficker* in German cant.

(Circus), a *faker*, a circus rider or performer.

(Popular), a prostitute's lover, bully.

Fakes and slumboes (theatrical), one of the numerous synonyms used by pantomimists to describe properties.

Fall of the leaf (old cant), hanging. Parker says, "The new mode of hanging. The culprit is brought upon a stage, and placed upon a leaf. When the rope is fixed about his neck the leaf falls, and the body immediately becomes pendant."

Why, I suppose you know that he was knocked down for the crap the last sessions. He went off at the *fall of the leaf* at Tuck'em Fair.—*G. Parker: Variegated Characters.*

Fall, to (thieves), to be apprehended.

A little time after this I *fell* again at St. Mary Cray for being found at the back of a house.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

False hereafters (American), bustles.

The scheme worked to perfection. In the large bustles which they wore, the dudes carried off their wardrobe in large *false hereafters*, and passed the lady of the house on their way out.—*New York National Police Gazette.*

Fam, fem (thieves), the hand.

If they do get their *fams* on me I'll be in for a stretch of air and exercise.—*On the Trail.*

The gypsies claim this as a Romany word and derive it from *fem*, five, or the five fingers, although five in Romany is *pange*.

Fambles, fumbles (thieves), the hands. *Vide* FAM.

Fam grasp (old cant), shaking hands.

Family disturbance (cowboys), whisky.

Family man (thieves), one of the fraternity of thieves. Also a receiver of stolen goods or "fence."

Fam lay (thieves), robbing a store by pretending to examine goods. But more specially to rob a jeweller by means of a sticky substance attached to the palm or fingers, thus abstracting the articles shown.

Fam squeeze (thieves), strangling.

Fam, to (thieves), to handle; from the gypsy *fan* or *vangri*.

Fan (thieves), a waistcoat.

Fan, to (thieves), to steal from the person. (Prov. Cumberland), to feel, to find.

On the way down the street Pete was very friendly and entertaining, and *fanned* the countryman's pocket where he had seen him put the roll, but it had been shifted.—*New York World.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Fancy bloke (sporting), a sporting man; also the favoured man of a low class woman, or prostitute.

Fancy house (prostitutes), a house of ill-repute.

Fancy Joseph (common), a youth who is a general favourite and pet among prostitutes. Also "Cupid," a mere boy, who goes with fast women or girls. An M.D., a "milliner's darling."

Fancy man (prostitutes), the lover of a prostitute.

But my nuttiest blowen, one fine day,
Fake away!
To the beak did her *fancy man* betray.
—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

Fancy pieces (common), prostitutes.

Fancy, the, the favourite pastimes of sporting men.

That boxing and ratting, and other forms of *the fancy*, still exist as part of the amusements of the lower orders is perfectly true, but they can no longer be classed as among the amusements of those who cannot afford to pay high prices of admission to illegal entertainments.—*Sims: How the Poor Live.*

The word very soon became specialised with reference to the devotees of the prize ring.

They hurried to be present at the expected scene with the alacrity of gentlemen of *the fancy* hastening to a set to.—*Scott: St. Ronan's Well.*

Other meaning explained by quotation.

His father took a great deal to *the fancy* . . it meant dealing in birds, and dogs, and rabbits.—*J. Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins.*

Fancy work, to take in (common). In general use among milliners, dressmakers, and shop girls, who resort to secret prostitution to eke out their scanty earnings at legitimate work. If a girl known to be receiving small wages dresses well and seems to have plenty of money, it is said of her, "Oh, she takes in fancy work."

Fanning (thieves), a beating, also stealing. Cross-*fanning*, stealing from the person with the arms crossed, the right hand operating under the left armpit.

Fanny Adams (naval), tinned mutton.

Fanny Blair (rhyming slang), the hair.

Fanqui (Anglo-Chinese), a European; literally foreign devil.

Fanteeg (popular), to be "in a regular *fanteeg*," to be perplexed, embarrassed, to be at one's wits' end (provincial English).

Far back (tailors), an indifferent workman or an ignorant person.

Farm (common), a place where illegitimate children are boarded, or rather starved, for a given sum.

There can be no question that he has a better chance . . . though his treacherous "adopter" deserts him on a door-step, than if he were so kindly cruel as to tolerate his existence at the *farm.*—*Greenwood: Seven Curses of London.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(Prison), the prison hospital.

He . . . first entered into a critical description of the dietary system of the *farm* infirmary.—*Evening News.*

To "fetch the *farm*," to obtain infirmary treatment and diet.

. . . The dodges which would take place to "fetch the *farm*."—*Evening News.*

Farmer (common), one who keeps a "farm," which see.

These are not the *farmers* who append to their advertisements the notification that children of ill-health are not objected to.—*Greenwood: Seven Curses of London.*

(Thieves), an alderman. In Kent a hare.

Fashno, fashni, fashioni (gypsy), false, counterfeit; *fashni augustrins*, false (gold) rings; also *fashino fauny*. (*Fauny* is canting.)

Fast (common), in want of money. Same as "hard up."

Fat (thieves), money. French slang, *graisse*. *Fat* cull, a rich man. (Printers), paying work in contradistinction to bad or "lean" work. This paying work consists of blank spaces in a page which are paid for at the same rate as pages fully printed. Short lines of verse set up in type are also considered as being *fat*. (Popular), *vide* CUT IT FAT, CUT UP FAT. (Theatrical), a part with good lines and telling situation that gives the player an opportunity of appearing to advantage is said to be *fat*, or to have *fat*. When an actor has a part of this kind, his colleagues are wont to say "he's got all the *fat*." (Princeton College), remittances of money to students. (English and American), *fat* thing, something which is very profitable or "fat."

"Those concerns will some time be unable to pay their interest," say these wise men, "and then we will step in and get a *fat thing*."—*American Newspaper.*

Fat flab (Winchester), part of a breast of mutton.

Father (thieves), a receiver of stolen property. (University), *father* of a college, the prælector who presents his men for degrees and represents the parents. (Printers), a person elected to preside as chairman to the "chapel" (which see) when held. He acts as a medium between master and men. (Naval), the dockyard name given to the builder of a ship of the navy.

Fatness (common), wealth.

That a man who has enjoyed so many years of *fatness* should die in absolute penury.—*Sporting Times.*

Fawney (thieves), a ring; also "fauney."

We believe that the *fauneys* on the hands were not molested, probably being left to be requisitioned on some future occasion.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Hotten gives the derivation, Irish, *fainee*, a ring.

Fawney bouncing (thieves), selling rings for a pretended wager.

Fawney dropper (thieves), one who practises the ring-dropping trick. *Vide* FAWNEY RIG.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Shallow fellows gad the hoof and fence their cant of togs, whilst *fawney droppers* gammon the flats and take the yokels in.—*Ducange Anglicus: The Vulgar Tongue.*

Fawney rig (thieves), the ring-dropping trick. A rogue drops a valueless ring or other article of jewellery and when he sees a person picking it up, claims half; or, he pretends to have just found the article and offers it for sale to a passer-by at a low price. A few years ago the article offered was generally a meerschaum pipe.

Fawnied (thieves), with rings, wearing rings.

Feathers (popular), money. Probably from the phrase to "feather one's nest."

Feed (common), a meal.

When he did give a *feed* he always limited the invitation to four.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Football), to *feed*, to support.

Feeder (thieves), a silver spoon. (Nautical), a small river falling into a large one, or into a dock or float. *Feeders* in pilots' language are the passing spurts of rain which "feed" a gale (Smyth).

Feeding gale (nautical), a storm which is on the increase, sometimes getting worse at each succeeding squall. When a gale freshens after rain it is said to have fed the gale (Smyth).

Feele (popular and thieves), a girl; from the French *fille*, or the Italian *figlia*.

Feet (old), "to make *feet* for children's stockings," to beget children.

Feet casements, a humorous expression for shoes or boots.

But he managed without it; only the new *feet casements* were not seasoned.—*Toby.*

Fegaries (American), old English for "vagaries," fads, caprices, whimsies, odd fancies, whims. A common word in New England.

Fell and didn't (tailors) is said of a man who walks lame.

Felling a bit on (tailors), Northern *fell*, sharp, crafty, doing something underhand.

Fellow-commoner (Cambridge University), an empty bottle (Hotten).

Fellow-comp. (printers), a term of familiarity used by compositors amongst themselves, especially for those employed in the same office.

Fellow-P. (printers), a designation applied to each other by apprentices that have been bound to the same master or firm, whether in the past or in the present. In some large offices it is customary to have an annual gathering of these *fellow-P.'s*, and such reunions are very sociable, and the traditions of a firm are thus handed down.

Fen (thieves), a prostitute. A mispronunciation of *femme*, or from

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the Anglo-Saxon *fen* or *fenn*, mud, dirt. Compare with the French *gadoue*, meaning both Paris mud and prostitute.

(American and provincial English), a boy's exclamation to express warning or prohibition. "*Fen* puds," or "*fen* ball," keep away the ball; from English "fence off," or very old English, *fend*, ward off. English boys use the word "feign," I decline; also "feign it," leave off.

Fence (thieves), a receiver of stolen property; also his house or shop. Probably from "*fence* in."

About two moon after this same *fence* fell for buying two finns.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

G. Parker, in his "Variegated Characters," says: "In Field Lane, where the handkerchiefs are carried, there are a number of shops called '*fence* shops,' where you buy any number."

Fence-riding (American), said of those who wait to see which side it will pay them to indorse, and then when victory or success seems certain, to throw in their lot with the winning side.

This question is one of clear right and wrong, and there can be no *fence-riding* when the rights of four millions of men are at stake.—*Congressional Globe.*

Fence, sitting on the. Although without doubt American in its later usage, the idea conveyed is "as old as the hills." Trench, in his "English Past and Present," page 300, points out how singular it is that not only is the same idea embodied in the phrase as in the Latin *prævaricato*, viz., "straddling with distorted legs," but that it should also carry with it almost exactly the same figurative meaning as the classical word. "To sit on the fence," in political cant parlance, is to wait and see how things go before committing oneself to definite action or partisanship.

A kind o' hangin' round an' *settin' on the fence*,
Till Providence pinted how to jump an' save the most expense.
—*Biglow Papers.*

Sometimes the phrase is varied with "sitting on both sides of the hedge." The expression is of Western growth, being traceable to the care with which the squatter fences in his lot; it also being a point of vantage at the top of which, at the close of the day's work, he can smoke his pipe and survey his possessions while thinking out his plans for the future.

Fence, to (thieves), to sell stolen property, or take it to a receiver's. The term is old.

It's not the first time that I have *fenced* a rum screen with him.—*G. Parker: Variegated Characters.*

Also to spend money.

Fencing crib (thieves), a place where stolen property can be disposed of.

Fencing cully (old), a receiver of stolen goods.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Ferg, to (Vermont University), old English *ferke*, to hasten, proceed, go. As going out of a rage. German *vergehen*. When a man is cooling down from intense excitement or passion he is said *to ferg*.

Ferguson (common), generally heard expressed as, "It's all very well, Mr. *Ferguson;* you're very good-looking, but you can't come in." Said to be addressed to men who are not known attempting to obtain admission to "close" gambling-houses, or other haunts of dissipation, where close watch is kept for fear of the police. There is a song which has this sentence for a refrain. It was very common, and used with many applications from 1845 to 1850.

Ferret (thieves), a young thief who gets into a coal barge and throws coal over the side to his confederates. (Old), a tradesman who, having supplied goods at ruinous prices on credit, continually duns his customers for payment.

Ferricadouzer, a knock-down blow, a good thrashing (Hotten). Evidently derived from the Italian *fare cudere*, to cause to fall, and *dosso*, back.

Fess, to (American university), to fail in reciting the lesson, together with a mute appeal for no further questions to be put. The military cadets at West Point also use the word in a similar way. Old English *fese*, to frighten, make afraid.

And when you and I and Benny and General Jackson too,
Are brought before a final board our course of life to view,
May we never *fess* on any point, but then be told to go
To join the army of the blest, with Benny Havens, O!
—*Song: Benny Havens, O!*

Fetch (common), a success; to *fetch*, to please, to arouse lively interest, excite admiration.

"You come up to the window and touch your hat, and say, 'Luggage all in, my Lord;' that will *fetch* 'em."—*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Theatrical), is said of a play or entertainment which finds great favour with the public and attracts large audiences.

The masher's ballet is one of the features of the show and ought to *fetch* north London.—*Evening News.*

(Thieves), to *fetch* the farm. *Vide* FARM.

Fetch a lagging, to (thieves), to be serving out one's sentence at a convict establishment.

Millbank for thick shins and graft at the pump,
Broadmoor for all lags as go off their chump,
Brixton for good toke and cocoa with fat,
Dartmoor for bad grub but plenty of chat,
Portsmouth a blooming bad place for hard work,
Chatham on Sunday gives four ounces of pork,
Portland is the worst of the lot for to joke in,
For *fetching a lagging* there is no place like Woking.
—*A Thief's Production, quoted by Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Fetch up, to (popular), to startle. (American), to come to light, and said, for example, of the bodies of drowned people.

'Bodies that come over the falls, they mostly *fetch up* here."

"Things always *fetch up* sooner or later, but it's sometimes a week before we get 'em."—*Between Two Oceans.*

Also to recruit one's strength, to recover from some illness.

Fettle (popular), "in good *fettle*," in good order, well equipped. Also in a good state of mind, jolly, or very drunk.

Fever-time (Winchester College), the time when superannuated college prefects go for a fortnight into a sick-room in order to "mug," that is, to give themselves up to hard study.

Fez (Harrow), the tasselled cap worn by members of a football eleven. A member of that society.

Fibbery (thieves), lying. From "fib."

And if you come to *fibbery*
You must mug one or two.
—*The Leary Man.*

Fibbing gloak (old cant), a pugilist.

Fibbing match (thieves), a prize fight.

Fibbings (boxing), rapid, repeated blows, delivered at a short distance.

I say, could I borrow these gentlemen's muses,
More skilled than my neck, or in *fibbings* and bruises.
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Fib, to (old cant), to strike, beat. (Boxing), to deliver rapid blows at a short distance.

Each cull completely in the dark
Resolved his *fibbing* not to mind.
—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

. . . His whole person put in chancery, stung, bruised, *fibbed*, propped, fiddled, slogged, and otherwise ill-treated.—*Cuthbert Bede: Adventures of Mr. Verdant Green.*

To tell lies.

Fickle Johnny Crow (West Indian), one who does not know his own mind.

Fiddle (Stock Exchange) a sixteenth part of £1.

Done at a *fidale*; "Sugar" getting in!
—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

(Thieves), a whip. (Popular), a sharper; the Scotch *fiddle*, the itch; a sixpence, possibly from the expression "fiddler's money," sixpences. (Tailors), second *fiddle*, an unpleasant task.

Fiddle-face (popular), a wizened countenance.

Fiddler (pugilistic), a pugilist who depends more on his activity than upon his strength or stay. (Popular), a sharper, a cheat, a careless, dilatory person. Also a sixpence or farthing.

Fiddler's green (nautical), a sort of sensual Elysium, where sailors are represented as enjoying for a "full due" those amenities for which Wapping, Castle Rag, and the back of Portsmouth Point were once noted (Smyth).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Fiddle, to (thieves), to gamble and consequently to cheat. (Popular), to get one's living by doing small jobs in the streets. To play upon, to take in.

She's diddled me, she's *fiddled* me, nigh
Sent me off my chump.
—*Robson: Ballad.*

(Common), to take liberties with a woman. (American), to intrigue, or intrigue craftily.

Bob is the man who *fiddled* himself into Congress.—*St. Louis Chronicle.*

(Pugilistic), to strike.

Fidlam bens (thieves), thieves who have no speciality, who will steal anything.

Fidlam coves (thieves). *Vide* FIDLAM BENS.

Field (sport), the runners in any race. (Turf), the horses in a race as opposed to the favourite. To "chop the *field*" is said of a horse that outstrips the rest, literally "whips" them. *Vide* TO CHOP.

Bismarck, whose terrific speed enabled him to chop his *field*.—*Sporting Times.*

To "lay against the *field*," is to back one horse against all comers. (Hunting), the riders.

The cry of the "*field* a pony," means that the layer is willing to bet even money on the general mass of runners against any one competitor. The backers would, of course, select the favourite on these terms.

Fielder (turf), one who backs the "field" (which see) against one horse. Also a "layer" or "bookmaker."

Yet the confiding *fielder* who took this security stood him in Paris for about £100.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Field-lane duck (popular), a baked sheep's head. *Field-lane* was a low London thoroughfare leading from the foot of Holborn Hill to the purlieus of Clerkenwell (Hotten).

Field, to (Winchester College), to jump into the water before another goes in, so as to assist him. (Turf), to back the "field," which see.

It cannot be denied that there has lately been an uncommon eagerness *to field*.—*Sporting Times.*

Field, to lead the (city), to set an example which is followed by all others. Evidently an adaptation of the sporting phrase.

Fiery lot (popular), a word which does not mean in ordinary slang hot-tempered so much as "fast" and rollicking.

Berty isn't bad-tempered, though he's such a *fiery lot*;
And he's cool, though when he's spreeing, he's a boy that goes it hot.
—*Broadside: My Berty.*

Fi-fa (legal), a writ of *fieri-facias*, *i.e.*, a writ lying for him who has recovered an action of debt or damages, to levy the debt or damages against whom the recovery was had.

Fifer (tailors), a waistcoat-maker.

Fig (common), "to be in full *fig*," in full dress; *figuretto*, figured silk, the finest and most expensive dress. Old English from the Italian (Halliwell). Dr.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Brewer says this term is a corruption of the Italian *in fiocchi*, in gala costume. Hotten thinks it may be an allusion to the fig-leaf of our first parents. Another but more probable etymology is that it is taken from the word full *fig.* (figure) in fashion books.

(Horsedealers), to *fig* a horse is to apply ginger to a horse to make him appear lively, to make him carry a fine tail.

Figged out (popular), dressed in best clothes, in full costume.

Figger (thieves), *vide* FAGGER.

Fighting tight (American), drunk and quarrelsome. Extremely drunk.

In those unburdened days a quarter of a dollar would buy enough sour mash to make an ordinary man *fighting tight*, but now it would take the larger part of a dollar.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Fight one's weight in wild cats, to (American), to be full of courage and "go."

John Halkett, as I learned afterwards, could *fight his weight in wild cats.*—*The Golden Butterfly.*

Fig leaf (common), a small ornamented apron worn by ladies. (Fencing), the apron or padding protecting the lower part of the abdomen and the right thigh.

Figure dancer (thieves), one who alters the numbers or figures on bank-notes.

Figure-head (nautical), the face.

Figure man (studios), the principal figure in a picture. In French artists' language, *le bonhomme.*

Filau (Anglo-Indian), explained by quotation.

He is ambitious of being Vice-President of the Municipal Committee, or a *Filau* (*Anglicè* Fellow) of the University, and it is requisite that his qualifications should be made more widely known.—*St. James's Gazette.*

Filbert (popular), cracked in the *filbert*, slightly insane.

File (thieves), a pickpocket; *file* is a very old English term of contempt for a worthless, dishonest person. Probably connected with "vile" or "defile."

The greatest character among them was that of a pickpocket, or, in their language, a *file.*—*Fielding: Jonathan Wild.*

"The *file* is generally accompanied by the 'Adam tiler' and the 'bulker' or 'staller.' It is their business to jostle or 'ramp' the victim, while the *file* picks his pocket and then hands the plunder to the Adam, who makes off with it" (New York Slang Dictionary).

(Common), a cunning or artful man. Also silent *file; lime sourde*, or dumb *file*, in French slang.

He blewed a monkey, that silent *file*,
And tipped me the wink with a slippery smile.
—*Earl of Winchelsea: Lay of the Cooperer.*

Filing-lay (thieves), picking pockets.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

I am committed for the *filing-lay*, man, and we shall be both nubbed together.—*Fielding: Jonathan Wild.*

Fillibrush, to flatter, praise ironically (Hotten).

Filly (London), a young girl.

At last I've got a little *filly* of my own.—*Sporting Times.*

(Thieves), a daughter. Possibly from the Italian *figlia*, or the French *fille*. Also used generally for a young woman; in this sense probably derived from the name for a young mare.

Fimble-famble (common), a lame excuse; from to fimble, to fumble, and to famble, to stutter; both provincialisms.

Fin (common), the hand, originally a sea-term.

You'll find if you put half-a-crown in his *fin*,
It's so much the better for you.
—*Song.*

French sailors use the corresponding term *nageoire*.

Find (Harrow School), explained by quotation.

In a large house there are usually four sixth-form *finds* (a Harrow term signifying a mess of three or four upper boys who take tea and breakfast in one of their own rooms).—*Everyday Life in our Public Schools.*

To *find*, to mess together.

Finder (thieves), a thief; one who steals meat at a market. (University), term used at Caius for a waiter in hall.

Find-fag (public schools), a kind of *fag* thus described.

Find-fags have to procure from the shops in the town anything that may be required besides the regulation bread and butter for tea.—*Everyday Life in our Public Schools.*

Fine (shopkeepers), cutting it *fine*, cheating in various ways, adulterating articles of food.

Fine-drawing (tailors), accomplishing an object without being seen.

Fingerpost (old), a clergyman.

Fingersmith (thieves), explained by quotation.

Some traces of humour are to be found in certain euphemisms, such as the delicate expression *fingersmith* as descriptive of a trade which a blunt world might call that of a pickpocket.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Also a midwife.

Finjy (Winchester College), said when an unpleasant or unacceptable task had to be done by a number of boys. He who said the word last of all had to do it.

Finn, finnup, finnuf (thieves), a five-pound note. German-Jewish, *finnuf*. It is a pronunciation of *fünf* peculiar to Yiddish.

When we got into the rattler they showed me the pass; yes, there it was, fifty quids in double *finns* (ten-pound notes).—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Finnicky (common), from "finnikin" ("fine" with a diminutive termination), idly busy.

We don't want to get into international trouble, but we must say that Mexico is getting a trifle *finnicky*.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Finnup ready (sporting), a five-pound note.

'My reason for placing the old 'un there is on account of his having touched a *finnup ready*—this is a good old sporting term—and I expect the extra five pounds will just stop him getting home, or rather getting out.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Fipenny (thieves), a clasp knife. The term is in common use in Australia, where it was introduced by the convicts.

Fire (thieves), danger.

Fire and light (nautical), nickname of the master-at-arms (Smyth).

Fire a slug, to (old), to drink a dram of spirits.

Fired (American), arrested, taken up, turned out.

Tell him he mustn't fall asleep in a public place or he'll get *fired*, and ask him if you can't go to get him a cab.—*Confidence Crooks: Philadelphia Press.*

Also rejected; often applied by artists to rejected pictures.

Fire-eater (printers), a term for quick compositors. Savage, in his "Dictionary of the Art of Printing," 1841, gives this term.

(Tailors), one who does a great amount of work in a very short time.

Fire-escape (popular), a clergyman.

Fire priggers (thieves), thieves who take advantage of a fire, or in the crowd, to plunder or pick pockets.

Fire spaniels (military), soldiers who sit round and close up to the barrack-room fire. They are supposed to be guarding it like faithful dogs or spaniels.

Fire-works (tailors), a great disturbance, a state of intense excitement.

Firky toodle (popular), to cuddle or fondle; to *firk*, on the contrary, means to beat, to chastise. In the same way the French *caresser*, literally to caress, means also to beat.

Firmed (theatrical), well *firmed*, perfect in the "business" and words.

First-chop (American), excellent, first-rate. In "Sam Slick in England," it is thus explained: "This phrase is used all through the United States as a synonym for first-rate." The word *chop* is Chinese for quality. He looks like a *first-chop* article. *Vide* CHOP.

"Wall," ses Linkin, "I think that is a *first-chop* idea."—*Major Jack Downing.*

First flight (sporting), the first persons at the finish in any kind of race, in a fox-hunt.

First nighters (journalistic), musical or dramatic critics who naturally attend on first nights.

The production of Anton Rubenstein's "Demon" in the charming Russian dialect at the oddly-named Jodrell Theatre, has, so far, been the only opportunity for *first nighters* to distinguish themselves.—*Sporting Times.*

More generally people who make a point of attending the first performance of plays.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

First night wreckers (theatrical), men who attempt to hiss down a play on first performance.

First snap (American), at the beginning.

Van Cott, you could see at *first snap*, was grit all through, and as full of fight as a game rooster.—*The Golden Butterfly.*

Fish (common), a person; used in such phrases as an odd, a queer, prime, shy, loose *fish*, &c. (Nautical), a scaly *fish*, a rough, blunt-spoken seaman. (Tailors), pieces cut out of garments to make them fit close.

Fish market (gaming), the lowest hole at bagatelle. Also known as "Simon."

Fish, to (common), to endeavour to obtain favour, to ingratiate oneself, to curry favour. He who does it is a "fisher," a very opprobrious epithet.

Fishy (common), doubtful, suspicious, implying dishonesty, as in a *fishy* affair or "concern."

Fist (tailors), a "good *fist*," a clever workman. (Printers), an index hand.

Fist up, put your (tailors), acknowledge your error.

Fitter (thieves), a locksmith who makes burglars' keys.

Fitting up a show (studios), arranging an art exhibition.

Fit up (theatrical), a concern, small company.

Five fingers (cards), the five of trumps at the game of "don."

Fiver (common), a five-pound note.

Many a harmless *fiver* has passed from the unprofessional into the professional pocket.—*Standard.*

Fives (popular), the fist. Termed also "bunch of *fives*."

Whereby altho' as yet they have not took
to use their *fives*,
Or, according as the fashion is, to sticking
with their knives,
I'm bound there'll be some milling yet.
—*Hood: Row at the Oxford Arms.*

(Low), a fight.

You are wanted at the corner for a *fives* . . . they struck Cole . . . and he was kicked.—*Evening News.*

Fixings (popular), house furniture. (American, English, and Australian), paraphernalia, kit, the adjuncts to any dish. (Bushmen), strong liquor.

Fixin to eat (American), a Virginia negro expression. Getting ready for meals.

Fix the ballot-box, to (American), to tamper with the returns of an election.

Before they got back I had the box *fixed*, and my economical friend's name was not on a single ballot. He made an awful howl, and swore that he had voted at least seventeen times himself.—*San Francisco Post.*

Fix, to (old cant), to put people in the hands of justice, to apprehend.

I daresay if any of us was to come in by ourselves and should happen to take a snooze you'd snitch upon us and soon have the traps *fix* us.—*G. Parker: Variegated Characters.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(American), applied loosely and slangily to a great number of words indicating different kinds of manual action, such as to repair, arrange, put in order, execute in a satisfactory manner, to cook, write, or do anything whatever.

Fix up, to (American and Australian), to settle, arrange.

Later in the evening Cogan told witness that there was no need of his going, as the matter had been *fixed up.—Daily Inter Ocean.*

Fiz (common), champagne.

Will the call for *fiz* be less now the fiscal duty is greater.—*Sporting Times.*

(Popular), lemonade, ginger beer.

After winning a considerable sum of money at the sports, he could only treat one of his comrades to a *fiz* and a bun.—*Toby.*

Fizzer (theatrical), a first-rate part; "a regular *fizzer*" is a part full of life and effervescence.

Fizzing (common), first-rate, alluding to the effervescence of champagne.

Fizzle (American), failure. From the old English *fizzle*, a flash, a hissing noise, as of anything which has expired in a flash.

Plutarch says that Demosthenes made a gloomy *fizzle* of his first speech.—*American Humourist.*

(Yale University), an imperfectly said lesson. To "flunk" is to utterly fail, but a man *fizzles* when he manages to get through somehow.

Fizzle, to rise with modest reluctance, to hesitate often, to decline finally. Generally to misunderstand the question (Yale Literary Magazine).

Fizzling has also been defined as a somewhat free translation of an intricate sentence, or proving a proposition from a wrong figure.

Flabberdegaz (theatrical), any words not in the part said by an actor whose memory fails him. Also imperfect delivery or acting.

Flabbergast, to (common), to astound, confound. From *gast*, old English, to frighten, and *flab*, to scare.

The magistrate before whom the case was brought seems to have been completely *flabbergasted* and paralysed with astonishment.—*Evening News.*

Flag (popular), an apron.

He stood flabbergasted, but I wasn't goin' to put the game away, so I says, "Ginger, 'e can 'ave the jacket and the *flag*, and the cards, and bust hisself shouting, he can, and jolly good luck to him."—*Sporting Times.*

Persons who wear their aprons when not at work are termed "*flag*-flashers."

Flag-about, a low strumpet (New York Slang Dictionary). (Provincial), "flack" or "flacket," to flap about.

Flag flying (tailors) is used in reference to a bill posted up when hands are required.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Flagge (old cant), a groat, or fourpence.

"Why, hast thou any lowre in thy bonge to bouse?" "But a *flagge*, a wyn, and a make."—*Harman: Caveat.*

Flag of defiance is out, the (nautical), a term in use amongst sailors to imply that a man is drunk, the allusion being to his red, bloated face, and the pugnacity due to being well primed with drink.

Flags (popular), clothes drying in the open air and flying in the wind.

Flag-wagging (military), flag-signalling, or signal drill.

Flam (common), obsolete English, but now used in a slangy sense; a lie, humbug, flattering lie.

. . . When with some smooth *flam*
He gravely on the public strives to sham.
—*Earl of Rochester: Works.*

I slowly melt—this isn't *flam*,
On torrid days like these.
—*Funny Folks.*

(American University), to *flam*, to be partial to the society of ladies.

Flannels (Harrow), to get one's *flannels* is to obtain promotion to the school, cricket, or football eleven. (Rugby), at Rugby when the school played football in white ducks, the probation "caps" were allowed to wear *flannels*. At present, though the whole school wear *flannels*, the name retains its old signification (Our Public Schools). The term has now become general.

Flap (thieves), sheet lead for roofs.

Flapdoodle (American), nonsense, an English west country expression meaning nourishment for fools, as in quotation.

I shall talk to our regimental doctors about it, and get put through a course of fools' diet. . . . *Flapdoodle* they call it, what fools are fed on.—*T. Hughes: Tom Brown at Oxford.*

Also "flap sauce."

Flapdoodlers (journalistic), charlatan namby-pamby political speakers.

Flapmen (prison), the first and second class of men in convict prisons, who are allowed for good behaviour a pint of tea at night instead of gruel.

Flapper (popular), hand; *flapper*-shaking, hand-shaking.

Wondering whether . . . and if the joining palms in a circus was the customary *flapper*-shaking before "toeing the scratch" for business.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Flap the dimmock, to (popular), to pay. Termed also "to touch the cole, stump the pewter, tip the brads, down with the dust, show the needful, sport the rhino, fork, fork out, shell out," &c.

Flap, to (thieves), to rob, to swindle; "to *flap* a jay," to swindle a greenhorn. From *flap*, to turn over, *i.e.*, manage adroitly.

Flare (nautical), said of a stylish craft.

I've heard her stern-post shows a "rake," and that she's a decided *flare*,
Which may be both advantages, but I'm no salt and never were.
—*Judy.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Flare up (common), a jollification, an orgie.

Flash, a recognised word for slang, cant, thieves' lingo. Also old for showy but unsubstantial and vulgar, gaudy but tasteless. The term explains itself as applying to anything that glitters, that "flashes." Also spurious, as a *flash* note, a forged bank-note. Thieves have appropriated it and applied it to themselves or their avocations, in a sense of commendation, with various significations, such as good, knowing, dashing, *flash* toggery, elegant dress.

Soon then I mounted in Swell Street High,
And sported my *flashiest* toggery.
—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

Flash man. *Vide* FLASHMAN.

A *flash* mollisher, a thief's favourite mistress. "To patter *flash*," to talk in thieves' lingo.

I'm tired of pattering *flash* and lushing Jackey.—*On the Trail.*

(Common), a *flash* girl, a woman about town, a showy prostitute.

In Australia *flash* is used with the sense of conceited, vainglorious, dandified, foolhardy, swaggering. Australians would call a man *flash* who began slogging at good bowling directly he went in to bat, or took up a poisonous snake by the tail to knock its head against the wall, &c.

Flash cove (popular and thieves), a thief, sharper.

Flash drum (thieves), a thieves' tavern; also a brothel.

Flashery (thieves), elegance, boasting talk, great showing off.

Flash gentry (thieves), the higher class of thieves.

Oh, if my hands adhere to cash,
My gloves at least are clean,
And rarely have the *gentry flash*
In sprucer clothes been seen.
—*Lytton: Paul Clifford.*

Flash house, ken, panny, (thieves), a place frequented by thieves; thieves' boarding-house. Also a brothel.

Flash jig (costers), a favourite dance at a twopenny hop.

Flashly (thieves), elegantly.

Your fogle you must *flashly* tie.—*The Leary Man.*

Flashman (thieves), a thief. Also a prostitute's bully, thus described by G. Parker in his "Variegated Characters:"—"A *flashman* is a fellow that lives upon the hackneyed prostitution of an unfortunate woman of the town; few of them but what keeps a *flashman*, and some of these despicable fellows, when their woman has picked up a country gentleman, or a drunken person, will bounce into the room and pretend they have surprised you with their wife, and will beat you, or threaten to bring an action against you. Thus intimidated they extort your purse from you, or rob you of your watch."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Flash of lightning (thieves), a glass of gin.

"Will you have a *flash of lightning?*" "I am just going to have some slim."—*Parker: Variegated Characters.*

Flash, to (popular and thieves), to show; "*flash* your dibs," show your money.

Cocum gonnofs *flash* by night the cooters in the boozing kens.—*Ducange Anglicus: The Vulgar Tongue.*

"*To flash* one's ivories," to laugh. (Thieves), "*to flash* the hash," to vomit. (Common), "*to flash* the dicky," to show the shirt front.

Flashy blade (old cant), a fellow who dresses smart (G. Parker).

Flat (general), an inexperienced, easily imposed on person.

What a *flat*,
To seek such an asylum as that.
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

(Sharpers), *flat*-catching, swindling simple-minded people or countrymen, generally by means of the confidence trick, or some such primitive "dodge."

. . . To mark the many kinds of bait that are used in *flat*-catching, as the turf slang has it.—*Greenwood: Seven Curses of London.*

(Prostitutes), picking up a *flat*, finding a client.

. . . On the chance that she will in the course of the evening pick up a *flat*.—*Greenwood: Seven Curses of London.*

Flat-catcher (prison), one who swindles foolish or confiding persons by selling painted sparrows, pretending to have picked up a valuable ring, the confidence trick, &c.

Flatch (back slang), half, or half-penny. (Coiners), a bad half-crown.

Flatch-enore (costermongers' back slang), half-a-crown.

"Why, I've cleared a *flatch-enore* a'ready, but kool esilop (look at the police), nammus (be off)."

Flat-feet (popular), a foot-soldier; applied generally to the Foot-guards.

Flat-fish (popular), a dull, stupid fellow.

Flat-footed (American). There is a very interesting and accurate description of *flat-footed*, by R. A. Proctor, in his "Americanisms," published in *Knowledge*, June 1, 1887.

"The significance of this word in America is very different from that of the French word *pied-plat*, identical though the words may be in their primary meaning. A French *pied-plat* is a contemptible fellow; but an American *flat-foot* is a man who stands firmly for his party. . . . When in America General Grant said he had 'put his foot down,' and meant to advance in that line if it took him all the summer, he conveyed . . . the American meaning of the expression *flat-footed*."

It may be observed that *flat*, in the senses of downright, resolute, firm, plain, direct, straightforward, or simple, is Dutch, and that *platt Deutsch* means "plain Dutch" (Sewell). *Plat afslaan*, or *plat afzeggen*, is to give a flat refusal, or to refuse "right up and down." But the connection between setting the foot down firmly or flat, and a deter-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

minate resolution, may probably be found in most languages.

Flat-head (American) a greenhorn.

Flat-move (thieves), the action of a fool, dupe. Any attempt that miscarries, or any act of folly or mismanagement.

Flats and chits (thieves), bugs and fleas (Baumann).

Flats (thieves) playing cards; (tailors) mahogany *flats*, bugs.

Flats-yad (tailors), back slang used by stock cutters, a day's enjoyment or jollification.

Flat taste (tailors), very indifferent judgment.

Flatten out, to (American), "I *flattened* him *out*," *i.e.*, I had the best of him, of the argument.

(Tailors), *flattened out*, without resources of any kind, beaten.

Flatter trap (thieves), the mouth; called by French rogues *la menteuse.*

Flatty (popular), a variant of "flat," a greenhorn, a fool.

Flatty-ken (thieves), a public-house the landlord of which is ignorant of the practices of the thieves and tramps who frequent it (Hotten).

Flax, to (American), to beat, punish, to "give it" to any one severely in any way. "*Flax* it into him," let him have it hot. "Flacks," blows or strokes (East).

Flay-bottomist (common), a schoolmaster, so called from his occasional office of bircher to unruly or disobedient pupils.

Flea-bag (popular), a bed. In French slang, *pucier*, *i.e.*, a receptacle for fleas.

Flemish account (nautical), a complicated and unsatisfactory account, one in which there is a deficit.

Flesh and blood, brandy and port in equal quantities (Hotten).

Flesh-bag (common), a shirt.

Fleshy (Winchester), a thick cut out of the middle of a shoulder of mutton.

Fletches (prison), spurious coins.

Flicker (thieves), a glass; to *flicker*, to drink; from *flacket*, a flask, a very old word.

Flick, to (thieves), to beat, to cut; "*flick* the panam," cut the bread. (Popular), old *flick*, old fellow.

Flies (trading), perhaps the latest slang word introduced to signify a customer.

(Popular), trickery, nonsense; no *flies*, without humbug, seriously. "In this sense," says Hotten, "*flies* is a softening of "lies."

> That's poz, dear old pal, and no *flies*.
> —*Punch.*

(Printers), an ancient name for the printers' devils, from an old cant term for spirits attendant on magicians, more par-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

ticularly applied to the boys who lifted the newspapers from the press.

These boys do in a printing-house commonly black and bedaub themselves, whence the workmen do jocosely call them devils, and sometimes spirits, and sometimes *flies*.—*Academy of Armory, R. Holme*, 1688; and *Gentleman's Magazine, October* 1732.

Flimming, flim-flamming (American thieves' flash or slang), in England, "ringing the changes." It is supposed to be partly derived from "flimsy," a bank-bill, and "flam," to cheat. But "flim-flam," for a shiny, deceptive cheat or trifle, is an old expression.

Flimp, to (thieves), to hustle and rob. Also refers to highway robbery, "to put on the *flimp*."

Flimping is a kind of theft which I have never practised, and consequently of which I know nothing.—*H. Kingsley: Ravenshoe.*

Also to steal by wrenching off.

He told me as Bill had *flimped* a yack, and pinched a swell of a fawney.—*Ducange Anglicus: The Vulgar Tongue.*

Flimsy (journalistic), paragraphs, items of news, comments; from the name of their prepared copying-paper, used by newspaper reporters for producing several copies at once.

I wonder who supplies the *flimsy* about naval matters to the *Times* and other dailies. Occasionally the mistakes are grotesque in the extreme.—*Sunday Times.*

(Thieves), bank notes.

In English Exchequer bills full half a million,
Not kites manufactured to cheat and inveigle,
But the right sort of *flimsy*, all signed by Monteagle.
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

The term is now in common use.

"Well, I shall have a fiver on White Wings, and chance it," and the Correspondent put down his *flimsy*, and everybody jeered.—*Sporting Times.*

(Printers), an expression used for telegraph forms, or anything written on thin paper.

Fling (common), properly a kind of dance. "To have his *fling*," to lead a merry life.

In London he has settled down;
He means to have his *fling* in town,
A little king without a crown.
Who finds the money?
—*Dagonet: The Great Mystery.*

In the above the reference is to General Boulanger.

Flint (workmen), an operative who works for a "society" master, *i.e.*, for full wages. In the early part or middle (1836–7, C.W.S.) of the present century, a strike for higher wages took place in London. The men who "held out" were known as "flints," while those who succumbed received the opprobrious name of "dungs." Both these names are used in Foote's play, *The Tailors.*

Flint into, to (American), varied to pour in, fire away, tumble on to, pitch into. There may be possibly fifty such words more or less in use, meaning to go at something, to begin to act, to tackle anything.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Flint it out, to (tailors). *Vide* FLINT.

Flip-flap (popular), a peculiar rollicking dance indulged in by costermongers when merry or excited. Also a kind of somersault in which the performer throws himself on his hands and feet alternately (Hotten). (Nautical), the arm.

Flipper (common), hand, originally a sailor's expression; "tip me your *flipper*," shake hands.

> The other, a sailor, had one wooden pin,
> He looked mournful at Ned, then said,
> "Tip us your *flipper*."
> —*Song: Pudding-faced Ned.*

Flippers, flappers, very young girls trained to vice, generally for the amusement of elderly men; *floppers* is a provincialism for young birds beginning to spread their wings.

Flirtina cop-all (popular), a girl generally, or one too fond of men. "Cop" has the signification of catch.

Floater (Whitechapel), a small suet dumpling put into soup (Hotten).

Floaters. The *Cornhill Magazine* gives the following explanation:—"An interesting, but one would hope decaying, class of voters are the *floaters*, the electors whose suffrages are to be obtained for a pecuniary consideration. There is a story told of a candidate in an American township who asked one of the local party managers how many voters there were. 'Four hundred,' was the reply. 'And how many *floaters?*' 'Four hundred!' Somewhat akin to the *floaters* are those who sit 'on the fence'—men with impartial minds, who wait to see, as another petty phrase has it, 'how the cat will jump,' and whose convictions at last generally bring them down on that side of the fence where are to be found the biggest battalions and the longest purses. These *floaters* and men 'on the fence' used in the olden times to be the devoted adherents of the 'man in the moon.' When an election was near at hand it was noised abroad throughout the constituency that the 'man in the moon' had arrived, and from the time of that august visitor's mysterious arrival many of the free and independent electors dated their possession of those political principles which they manfully supported by their votes at the poll. Of course no candidate bribed—such a thing was not to be thought of; but still the money was circulating, and votes were bought, and as it was necessary to fix the responsibility upon some one, the whole business was attributed to the action of the 'man in the moon.'"

Floating academy (old cant), the hulks; "Duncan Campbell's *floating academy*," formerly the hulks at Woolwich.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

My man is hobbled upon the leg for three years on board *Duncan Campbell's floating academy* for napping a clink.—*G. Parker: Variegated Characters.*

Floating batteries (soldiers), bits of bread broken up and put in the evening tea. When soldiers are under stoppages or otherwise impecunious and unable to buy herrings, bacon, sausages, and other savoury articles for the tea meal, they are compelled to do with floating batteries. See SLINGERS.

Floating hell (old slang). The hulks were so called by those who brought themselves within the clutches of the law.

Flock of sheep (domino players), the row of dominoes before a player (Baumann).

Flogger (common), a whip.

Compared with the light and elegant *floggers* of the present day, it is a heavy, common "riding companion," with a massive silver handle, with a short twisted lash.—*Sporting Times.*

Flogging (popular), a man who is careful and penurious is said to be *flogging*, or saving his coin.

Flogging cove (prison), the official who administers the cat.

Floored (studios), is said of a picture hung on the lowest row at the Exhibition of the Royal Academy.

Floorer (pugilistic), a knock-down blow. (Common), unexpected news of an unpleasant nature; a decisive argument or retort; a question which utterly embarrasses one.

The Putney Pet stared. . . . The inquiry for his college was in the language of his profession a "regular *floorer*."—*Cuthbert Bede: Adventures of Mr. Verdant Green.*

(Schools), a question or paper too hard to be mastered, that on the contrary masters you. (Skittles), a stroke that brings all the pins down.

Floor, to. This word is recognised in the sense of to strike down, hence to put to silence by some decisive argument or retort: given by Wright as college cant, with the sense of "to throw on the floor as done with; hence to finish with." Gathered from the quotation—

I've *floored* my little-go work.—*Hughes: Tom Brown at Oxford.*

In the above the true sense is, "I have mastered," &c. Dr. Brewer says: "Thus we say at the University, 'I *floored* that paper,' *i.e.*, answered every question on it; 'I *floored* that problem,' did it perfectly, or made myself master of it."

Floor-walker (American), a man employed in shops to ask those who enter what they want, and direct them to the department where it is sold.

I next went into a shop a few doors farther up Broadway. When I entered I approached the *floor-walker*, and handing him my sample, said: "Have you any calico like this?" "Yes, sir," said he. "Third counter to the right."—*Frank R. Stockton.*

Called in England shop-walkers.

Flop (Vermont University), explained by quotation.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Any "cute" performance by which a man is sold is a good *flop*, and by a phrase borrowed from the tall ground is "rightly played." The discomfited individual declares that they "are all on a side," and gives up, or "rolls over," by giving his opponent "gowdy." A man writes cards during examination to "feeze the profs;" said cards are "gumming cards," and he *flops* the examination if he gets a good mark by the means. One usually *flops* his marks by feigning sickness.—*Hall: College Words and Customs.*

Floreat (Westminster), the toast drunk at the election dinners and other great occasions generally from the large silver cup presented by Warren Hastings and other old Westminsters, and commonly known as the "Elephant Cup," from its handles, which are in the shape of elephants' heads.

Floricus (Winchester College), an urinal or latrine.

Flour (American), one of the innumerable synonyms for money, or value.

Flounder, in the slang of water-rats—*i.e.*, men who rifle the pockets of drowned people—is the body of a poor, ragged, drowned man.

Flowery (tramps), lodging or house entertainment (Hotten).

Flue-faker (popular and thieves), a chimney-sweep.

Fluff (railway ticket clerks), short change given by such. To *fluff* is to give short change.

Fluff, to (popular), to take away; also to disconcert, put to silence.

And that orator was *fluffed*, and the meeting broke up in confusion.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Fluffer (common), of unsteady habits.

M. E. —— is a bachelor, and, if I may use the expression, a *fluffer*. He has had his romance, as Mdme. —— (the actress) could tell it.—*Evening News.*

Fluffings (railway ticket clerks), the proceeds from short change given by them.

Fluff it (popular), a term of disapprobation, implying "take it away, I don't want it" (Hotten).

Fluke (general), a thing obtained by chance when trying to get another. From a term at billiards, playing to score in one way and scoring in another. *Flack*, provincialism for a blow or stroke. A *fluke* at billiards was originally a flying stroke (Skeat). Dutch *vlug*.

These conditions are not often fulfilled, I can tell you: it is a happy *fluke* when they are —*Black: Princess of Thule.*

Fluky (common), obtained through a "fluke," which see.

Don't be cross—I've been learning my lesson—
Can describe who's "bowled clean,"
Which a *fluky* hit's been,
And almost know Forster from Gresson,
And haven't a doubt of Nepean.
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Flummocks (tailors), to spoil. A variant of "flummux," which see.

Flummux, flummox, to (popular), to perplex, confound, bewilder.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

My 'pinion is, Sammy, that if your governor don't prove a alleybi. he'll be what the Italians call reg'larly *flummoxed.—Dickens: Pickwick Papers.*

(Theatrical), to distress, to annoy, to upset an actor in his business. Forty years ago, when the late Charles Kean was acting "Macbeth" in Belfast, a stupid, inattentive actor kept the stage waiting for Seyton, in "Macbeth," for a considerable period. When the act was over he was profuse with servile apologies. Kean was obdurate, and dismissed the fellow with—"Fool! fool! you distressed—, you ruined—you tortured—you —you—*flummuxed* me!"

Flummuxed (thieves), done up, sure of a month in prison (Hotten).

Flunk, to (American), to die out, to give out, to fail, to make a feeble effort and then collapse. Possibly a New York or New Jersey (Princeton) word, from the Dutch *flonk, flonker, flonken*, to "twinkle" or sparkle like a star, bright at one instant and then invisible. It is generally used in American colleges for a failure in recitation. In a *flunk* the student at least makes an effort before he breaks down, but in a "dead *flunk*" he makes none, and simply exclaims, "Not prepared."

In moody meditation sunk,
Reflecting on my future *flunk*.
—*Songs of Yale College.*

Flunkey (nautical), the ship's steward. (American), a man who is unacquainted with the secrets of the Stock Exchange, makes rash ventures, and loses his money. The original *flunkey*, a footman, is from the French *flanquer*, to run by the side of (Skeat).

Flush (popular), full to the brim, that is, intoxicated. Properly affluent, abounding.

We would tempt him from the alehouse bench he occupied when *flush*, or the dead wall he propped up when impecunious.—*Globe.*

When one has plenty of cash he is said to be *flush*.

Lord Strut was not very *flush* in ready.
—*Arbuthnot.*

Flush in the fob (thieves), well supplied with money.

Flush, to (popular), to whip.

Flustered (common), intoxicated.

Flutter (popular), used in this phrase: "I'll have a *flutter* for it," I shall do my utmost. Also tossing with coins.

Flutter, to (popular), to toss for anything.

Flux, to (thieves), to cheat, overreach.

Fly (popular and thieves), knowing, wide-awake, well acquainted or familiar with, versed in.

"You seem to know all that's going on?" "Oh yes: I'm *fly*."—*The Youth's Companion.*

Although when they try their games with me, I let them see
That I am *fly* to all their tricks, . . .
—*Song: That's a Game Best Left Alone.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

To be *fly*, to understand, realise.

"Do what I want, and I will pay you well." . . . "I am *fly*," says Joe.—*Dickens: Bleak House.*

The designer is said to be *fly* at everything, to be up to everything, and down at everything.—*Diprose: Laugh and Learn.*

The term is probably from a simile referring to rapidity of comprehension. To be *fly* in Northamptonshire signifies to be quick at taking offence, at *flying* into a passion. A *fly* was originally a light carriage for rapid motion; and *mouche*, i.e., *fly*, is the name given to penny boats on the Seine. (Popular), "to be on the *fly*," to be out for a day's pleasure.

Fly by night (popular), removing the furniture by night to escape paying rent. "Shooting the moon."

I remember one night while shooting the moon,
We were all in a terrible fright;
The landlord came in a little too soon,
And stopped our *fly-by-night.*
—*Sidney Barnes: Shooting the Moon.*

Fly-cop (thieves), a sharp policeman.

Flyer (sport), a term denoting excellence.

The New Zealanders are not such *flyers* as was at first imagined.—*The Tatler.*

By successful heavy plunging he acquired no little fame,
And he evidently thought himself a *flyer* at the game.
—*Sporting Times.*

(Football), to kick a *flyer*, to kick the ball high up in the air. (English and American), a chance venture, a risk or hazard taken without much forethought, commonly applied to an off-hand speculation in stock.

He began . . . with a small *flyer* at the race-track.—*American Newspaper.*

Flyers (thieves), shoes (New York Slang Dictionary).

Fly-flat (turf), one who really knows little or nothing about racing, but fancies himself thoroughly initiated in all its mysteries. There are plenty of schoolmasters always ready to teach him the lesson that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

Flying a kite (commercial), drawing accommodation bills.

No doubt but he might without any great flight,
Have obtained it by what we call *flying a kite;*
Or on mortgage—or sure, if he couldn't so do it, he
Must have succeeded "by way of annuity."
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Flying, blue pigeon (thieves). "Thieves who *fly the blue pigeon*, that is, who steal lead off houses, or cut pipes away . . . cut a hundredweight of lead, which they wrap round their bodies next to the skin. This they call a 'bible,' and what they steal and put in their pockets they call a 'testament" (G. Parker).

Flying coves (thieves), fellows who obtain money by pretending

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

to persons who have been robbed that they can give them information that will be the means of recovering their lost goods (New York Slang Dictionary).

Flying jiggers (thieves), turnpike-gates.

Flying marc (popular), a throw in wrestling (Hotten).

Flying mess, to be in a (soldiers), to be hungry and have nothing to eat.

Flying rather high (common), intoxicated. A more advanced stage is when the subject is "corned," or on his "fourth," or has his "back teeth afloat." "Paralysed" or "boiling drunk" means very much intoxicated.

Flying stationer (street), a hawker of ballads.

Fly low, to (popular), to evade observation, to keep quiet. Thieves are said to *fly low* when keeping out of the way, because "wanted" by the police.

Flymy (low), cunning; *flum*, deceit, a provincialism same as "flam."

Fly the kite, to (thieves), to make one's exit by the window. *Vide* FLYING A KITE.

Fly, to (thieves), to toss up; "*to fly* the mags," to toss up the halfpence; "*to fly* a window," to lift a window; "*to fly* the blue pigeon," to steal lead off roofs. "*Fly* a kite," *vide* FLYING A KITE.

Fly to wot's wot (popular), fully understanding,

Percessions I've got a bit tired of, hoof padding, and scrouging's dry rot,
But Political Picnics mean sugar to them as is *fly to wot's wot.*

—*Punch.*

Fly-trap (popular), the mouth. Among costermongers it may often be heard when another of their fraternity is unusually vociferous in shouting his wares —"Shut up your *fly-trap.*"

Fob, to (old cant), to pick a pocket.

Fogey (nautical), an invalid soldier or sailor. Properly a man becoming stupid with age.

Fogged (tailors), puzzled, confused. Is said specially of one whose memory is at fault, who is "in a fog."

Fogging (railway), laying fog signals.

They were identified as Benjamin Golding, a porter, and Henry Barnes, a signalman: both had been engaged *fogging.*—*Standard.*

(Theatrical), getting through one's part anyhow, like a man lost in a fog.

Foggy (common), not quite sober.

Fogle (thieves), a pocket-handkerchief.

But when beat on his knees, that confounded de Guise
Came behind with the *fogle* that caused all the breeze.

—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

If you don't take *fogles* and tickers . . . pocket-hankerchers and watches . . .
—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

From the German *vogel*, a bird's eye, being slang for pocket-handkerchief, or more probably from Italian *foglia*, a piece of silk or satin.

Fogle-hunter (thieves), pickpocket, stealer of handkerchiefs.

"What's the matter now?" said the man carelessly. "A young *fogle-hunter*," replied the man who had Oliver in charge.
—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Fogram (thieves), a fussy old fellow (New York Slang Dictionary).

(Nautical), wine, beer, or spirits of indifferent quality; in fact, any kind of liquor (Smyth).

Fogue (thieves), fierce, fiery. Possibly from the French *fougueux*.

Fogus (old cant), tobacco. "From *fogo*, old word for stench," says Hotten. Possibly from *fog*, *fouge*, moss, and *foggage*, rank grass. This derivation is borne out by the analogy of "weed," another term for tobacco with "to fog." Also by French cant *trèfle*, *trifoin*, for tobacco.

Foik, to (football). "To *foik*" a ball out of the scrimmage is to pick it up with your hands before it is fairly out of the scrimmage, or to kick it out of the scrimmage backwards to one of your own "behinds," to give him a chance of a "run." Doubtless an imitation of "fake," broadly pronounced in some provincial dialect.

Foist (old cant), a pickpocket, a cheat.

Follow me, lads (common), curls hanging over a lady's shoulder. The French *suivez-moi jeune homme* refers to ribbons waving behind from a lady's dress.

Fooling around (American), trifling, not meaning business.

As it stands pugilists are the puppets or partners of acute showmen, and the "Noble Art of Self-Defence" is being rapidly reduced to a money-making form of what Americans call *fooling around*. By all means let us have a real fight and stop this nonsense.—*Daily Telegraph.*

Fool-killer (American), a mysterious being in the great Yankee mythology, frequently alluded to by editors as being "in town." The information is generally coupled with a warning to some prominent person that his life is in danger.

St. John of Kansas says he is not "afraid." From this statement we infer, that if St. John of Kansas and the *fool-killer* ever meet, the fur will fly. Look out for locks of a dyed moustache.—*American Newspaper.*

Fool's wedding (popular), an assemblage of women at which no man is present. *Cf.* HEN CONVENTION. The metaphor probably is that of a wedding without a bridegroom.

Foont (thieves), explained by quotation.

I got between five or six *foont* (sovereigns.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

German *pfund*, pronounced *foont*.

Footer (schools), football. There are a number of slang terms formed by changing the legitimate ending of words into *er*. The custom is said to be derived from Harrow.

(Universities), one who plays football according to the Rugby rules.

Footing-up (American), but probably of English origin.

The Arab abhors statistics. He won't be tabulated if he could help it, and were you to go to Algeria, Doctor Colenso, you would find a deeply rooted objection among the people to the reckoning or *footing-up*, as the Americans call it, of anything animate or inanimate.—*Geo. A. Sala: A Trip to Barbary.*

Footman's maund (old), an artificial sore in imitation of a kick from a horse, produced with unslaked lime, soap, and a piece of old iron.

Foot-riding (bicycling). When a cyclist cannot ride his iron steed, but is obliged to walk and wheel, it is called *foot-riding*.

Already I realise that there is going to be as much *foot-riding* as anything for the first part of my journey.—*Thomas Stevens: Round the World on a Bicycle.*

Footsac (South Africa), be off! An apostrophe to drive away intrusive dogs. Apparently a compound of the French *foutre*, pronounced *foute*, and *sacré*.

Foot scamp (old), a low fellow that stops you with bludgeon, cutlass, or knife, and ill-treats you (G. Parker).

Foot wobbler (old), an infantry soldier. Now termed a "wobbler," or "mud-crusher."

Footy (American and English), a foolish person, a "goose," a "coot." It is an English provincialism signifying trifling, mean, inferior, of little worth.

I think it would be a very pretty bit of practice to the ship's company to take her out from under that *footy* battery.—*Marryat: Peter Simple.*

Footy literally means "having foots," *i.e.*, settlings, or dregs, as *footy* oil. Hence its application to anything inferior or worthless. It has been suggested, however, that *footy* comes from the French *foutu*, which among its various significations has that of inferior, worthless.

Foozle (American), a man who is easily humbugged, a fool. "This common slang word, which appears also as *comfoozle*, meaning flattery, cajoling, or humbugging, is probably derived from the Anglo-Indian *foozilow*, meaning quite the same thing. This is in its turn from the imperative *p'huslão* of the Hindu verb *p'huslānā*. It is to be here remarked that many Hindu words came at an early date to the ports of Boston and Salem direct from India, and not through England. The prefix *com* is possibly the Hindu *kōm*, 'love.' To *comfoozle*, in Yankee, in fact means much the same as 'to mash,' but it also applies to bewilder, to lead one off the

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

head, or simply to fool and confuse, which all agrees with the Indian word" ("MS. of Anglo-Indian Terms," by C. G. Leland).

Fopdoodle (American), a silly fellow. "Come, don't be such a *fopdoodle*." This is provincial English.

Forakers (Winchester School), water-closet. Probably because originally the place used was a field, termed "foreacre," a provincialism for the headland of a field.

Force the voucher, a term in use among sporting tricksters, who advertise to send certain winners, and on receipt of letters enclose vouchers similar to those sent out by respectable commission agents, but with double or treble the current odds marked thereon, in reference to the horse named. A plausible letter is sent with the voucher, and the victim is informed that on account of early investments made by the firm, the extra odds can be laid by them, and a remittance to the amount named, or part of it, is requested. Of course, the firm "dries up" when claims become heavy (Hotten).

Fore coach wheel (popular), half-a-crown.

Foreman (tailors), a "sleeve-cutting *foreman*" is a cutter's trimmer. "Near the *foreman*, near the door," a cutter's term, meaning the farther you work from the foreman the better for you.

Foreman of the jury (common), said of a talkative man who will persist in talking to the exclusion of others.

Foreman on the job (popular), a leader, master, director, or "boss."

Ah, my wife's *foreman on the job* and no mistake, and what can I do? Nice thing for a free-born Briton, ain't it?—*Song: I'll never go home any more.*

Fork (thieves), a pickpocket; from *forks*, fingers.

Forkers (nautical), those who reside in seaports for the sake of stealing dockyard stores, or buying them, knowing them to be stolen.

Forking (tailors), hurrying over the work as if doing it with a pitchfork. Anglo-Saxon, *forkerven*, to cut or slash through.

Fork on, to (American University). To *fork on* to anything is to appropriate it to one's personal use and benefit.

Forks (popular and thieves), the fingers. In French argot, *fourchettes*. In thieves' language *forks* is more specially applied to the fore and middle fingers used for picking a pocket. Formerly the gallows.

Fork, to (common), to pay.

"His fee was a tenner. *Fork.*" Master *forked.—Sporting Times.*

Also *fork out.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"Tip up! . . . *fork out*," said the boy.
—*Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins.*

(Thieves), *to fork*, to pick a pocket by extracting an article with two fingers only. In French argot, *vol à la fourchette.*

Forloper (South Africa), a man who walks in front of a team of oxen, acting as a guide.

Form (racing), an expression signifying a horse's present, past, or presumed capabilities; thus, "really in *form*" means that he is just now at his best; "out of *form*," that he is not as good as usual; "lost his *form*," that he is more or less on the wane; "will show better *form*," that he will improve on his recent performances; "top *form*," that he is ranked amongst the best of his day. (Common), "good *form*," "bad *form*" refer to behaviour up or not up to a generally accepted standard of good manners or morality.

The height of "bad *form*" was reached on Thursday, when a loud cheer followed the failure of —— to return a service.—*Pastime.*

Forts (American Universities). At some colleges the boarding-houses for students are called *forts.*

Forty-five (cowboys), a revolver.

Forty-foot (popular), a short person.

Forty-guts (popular), a short person.

Forty-'leven (American), of negro origin. This phrase signifies indefiniteness.

Nor don't want *forty-'leven* weeks o' jawin' an' expoundin'
To prove a nigger hez a right to save him, if he's drownin'.
—*Biglow Papers.*

Forty-rod lightning (American), one of the innumerable names given to whisky — meaning whisky which will kill like a rifle at forty yards.

Fossed (thieves), thrown down (New York Slang Dictionary).

Fossick, to (Australian gold-miners).

Fossicking or "pocket mining," the searching for those scattered accumulations of gold which seem to have been washed into eddies in the early history of the earth.—*Standard.*

Also in the old digging days *fossicking* was getting a living by extracting what little gold there was from the refuse wash-dirt which previous miners had abandoned. So called from *fossicking*, taking trouble, it being tiresome work (Halliwell).

Fossicker (Australian gold-miners), an alluvial mining explorer. Also a miner who works at holes abandoned by others.

To this region must one come to see the *fossicker* in all his miserable state. Travelling in pairs, but usually working separately, the true gambusino of the North is found. Each boils his separate billy, and provides his frugal fare; each pitches his solitary tent; each works when and how disposed; each roams the ravines adjacent in search of some hidden store; and only when an abundance of water and cradling dirt convenient points out the mutual benefit, do the two combine and share the joint proceeds. Inducement for such a life is hard to find. Every pound of food has to be packed from fifty to a hundred miles.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Salt meat is necessarily the sole form in which meat can be provided. Day after day, week after week, the patient *fossicker* tries creek after creek, gully after gully, ravine after ravine, with the same result, the monotonous "colour," or worse still, the occasional presence of a coarse speck encouraging the delusion of better things. —*The Queenslander.*

Fossicking about, ferreting about. *Vide* To Fossick.

Foul-weather Jack (nautical), a person whose presence on board ship is supposed to bring ill luck.

Found on demerit (American cadet), having more than the limit (100) (O. E. Wood, U.S. Army).

Found on math (American cadet), to do badly at mathematics—obviously a corruption of "to founder."

Four eyes (popular), a silly term for a person who wears an eye-glass or spectacles.

Four-holed middlings (Winchester College), walking shoes of an ordinary kind.

Four seams and a bit of soap (tailors), a quaint phrase for trouser-making.

Fourteen hundred (Stock Exchange), a password used when a stranger is seen in the "house."

"So help me Got, Mo, who is he?" Instead of replying in a straightforward way, Mo raised his voice as loud as he could, and shouted with might and main, "*Fourteen hundred* new fives!" A hundred voices repeated the mysterious exclamation.—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

Fourth (Cambridge), the W.C.; to "keep a *fourth*," to go to the W.C. Supposed to allude to the fourth court at Trinity, a small quadrangle devoted to lecture-rooms and other conveniences. (Common), a very drunken man is said to be "on his *fourth*."

Fourth estate, the complete body of journalists of all descriptions. This term is much used among "liners" (Hotten).

Four-wheeler (popular), a steak.

Fowlo (pidgin), a fowl.

Fox (fencing), a cant term for sword in the older schools, from the "wolf" or *fox* mark borne by Solingen blades. The word "foxing," in the colloquial sense of pretending, is often applied to a sham carelessness in fencing, intended to induce the adversary to "come out" less cautiously.

Foxed (old slang), intoxicated. (Printers), said of stained or spotted books or paper. Caused by dampness mostly.

Fox, to (theatrical), to criticise a fellow actor's performance. (Popular), to follow or to watch slily.

We had several altercations. He was *foxing* me, and I was *foxing* him.—*Daily Telegraph.*

Fo-yok (pidgin), gunpowder; literally fire physic, fire medicine.

F.P. (War Office), former papers; a regular phrase at the War

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Office when it is a question of referring to preceding communications, &c., on any matter.

Fraggle (Texas), to rob (Bartlett); Dutch thieves' slang, *frikketiren*, to rob.

Frazzled out (American), used in the Southern States. Frayed, "frizzled," or worn out.

"Bimeby," continued the old man, "de switches dey got *frazzle out*."—*Uncle Remus.*

Freaks (American), men or women who make a living by exhibiting themselves as living skeletons, giants, dwarfs, and other freaks of nature.

Visitor (to dime-museum *freak*).—"What is your speciality, my friend?"

Freak.—"I'm the man who really knows more than he thinks he does. Want a photograph? Quarter of a dollar, sir."

Visitor.—"Yes; give me half-a-dozen. I'd wear one out in a week lookin' at it."—*Chicago Tribune.*

Free and easy, a smoking party of any kind, the members of which meet at a public-house to drink, smoke, and sing.

One of his accomplices, Hunt, had a beautiful baritone voice, and was the delight of *free and easies* patronised by the fancy.—*Daily Telegraph.*

Free-booker (journalistic), explained by quotation.

There are pirates and pirates. An American *free-booker* has sent Mrs. H. a cheque for five hundred dollars, on account of the profits of a filibustered edition of "Robert Elsmere."—*World.*

Freeholder (common), a man is called a *freeholder* when his wife will not allow him to visit a public-house by himself.

Free lances (society), women who do not run straight, are not virtuous and faithful to their husbands. Originated from the *free lances*, who carried on irregular warfare.

Sooner than be out of the fashion they will tolerate what should be most galling and shaming to them—the thought that by these they are put down among the *free lances.*—*Saturday Review.*

Freeman's quay (thieves), to "lush at *freeman's quay*," to drink at another's expense.

Freemartin (veterinary), a calf which is one of twins, the twins being one of each sex; the sexual organs of one or both are imperfectly developed or differentiated, and the *freemartin* is consequently sterile.

Free of fumbler's hall (common), a saying applied to one who is impotent.

Free, to (thieves), to steal; "*to free* a prad," to steal a horse.

Freeze out, to (English and American), to put out, deprive of, to drive away by distant freezing conduct and cold reserve, which was apparently the origin of the term.

I called on Jane and Mary Bung,
I thought I was bound to blaze,
But the very first call they *froze me out*,
With their new-converted ways.
—*Song: The Old-Fashioned Beau.*

To exclude.

But the large operators want to get hold of blocks of cheap stock, so a gradual process of *freezing out* of the small speculators is going on, and it appears to be pretty successful.—*Truth.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Freezer (popular), a winter's day. An Eton tailless jacket. The application is obvious.

Freeze, to (American), to stick to, to take, to have a longing desire.

I tell you I *froze* for meat before the week was gone to be intimate. There was no more intimacy shown between James and Ann other than might exist between any woman trying *to freeze* on to a boarder. —*Daily Inter Ocean.*

(Common), to *freeze to*, to stick to, take, steal; "some one has *frozen* to my watch."

French cream (popular and thieves), brandy.

French gout (popular), gonorrhœa.

Frenchman (printers), an Anglo-French printing machine is generally termed thus by the "minders."

Fresh (common), slightly intoxicated.

M. —— was summoned, and did not deny the "soft impeachment" that he was a little *fresh* at the time of the assault.—*Daily Telegraph.*

(American), forward, impudent.

"Has Peggy been too *fresh?*" Her sunburnt cheeks flushed.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Also innocent, unsophisticated.

Wall, there's no denying that fellers as is too *fresh* don't live long our way.—*Omaha World.*

(Thieves), uninitiated, green.

Freshen one's way, to (nautical), to hurry, quicken one's movements. From "fresh way," increased speed through the water.

Fresher (university), a freshman.

Freshman's Bible (university), a humorous name for the University Calendar.

Freshman's church (Cambridge University), the Pitt Press, which from its ecclesiastical appearance is liable to be mistaken for a church.

Freshman's landmark (Cambridge University). King's College Chapel, so called from its being so situated as to form a beacon to lost and wandering freshmen.

Freshman's river, the Cam above Newnham Mill, used for bathing, canoeing, and sculling, but not for boat-races.

Freshwater mariners (old cant), a variety of mendicants.

These *freshwater mariners*, their shipes were drowned in the Plaine of Salisbery. These kynd of caterpillers counterfet great losses on the sea.—*Harman: Caveat.*

Fret one's gizzard, to (popular), to fret about things, to get harassed and worried, to the absolute discomfort of oneself and those about one.

Friar (printers). *Vide* MONK. A light or "scabby" patch in a printed sheet, owing to bad distribution of ink or dampness. Probably derived from Caxton's time when he set up his press in Westminster Abbey, and the reference is to a friar of holy

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

orders, an individual of light clothing.

It is curious to note that French compositors use a similar term, *moine*, a monk or friar, in the same sense.

Friday-face (popular), a gloomy-looking man. Alluding to the meagre fare of Roman Catholics on Fridays. French "figure de carême."

Frigate (common), a well-dressed woman.

Frill (Australian popular), swagger, conceit. When a slangy Australian sees a person very conceited, or swaggering very much, he says, "He has an awful lot of *frill* on," "He can't walk for *frill*," "He's stiff with *frill*."

Frillery (common), linen.

And around her, in confusion, lay each fashion-plate delusion,
And *frillery*, the creamiest and best.
But, for details, see Ouida, for in def'rence to the reader,
Further information is suppressed.
—*Sporting Times.*

Frisk (society), a dance, a hop; not a very common expression, but occasionally used.

The show of dresses and jewels was remarkable, and the *frisk* was a brilliant success, everything being thoroughly well done.—*The World.*

Frisk, to (thieves), to search on the person; "to *frisk* a cly," to empty a pocket.

Frog (popular), foot; *frog*-footed, flat-footer, a contemporary term used for those who go on foot.

(Popular and thieves), a policeman.

I must amputate like a go-away, or the *frogs* will nail me.—*On the Trail.*

Frogging on (American), getting on. Usually attributed to Germans, and possibly derived from some popular misconception of *fragen*, to ask, or an allusion to the movements of a frog.

Ven ve go for to see our friendts apout,
Hey ho, countrymen—how you *froggin on?*
All de liddle Deutschers gif a pig shout,
Hey ho! Schneiders! How you knock along?
—*Thomas Browne: The Deutschers on a Spree.*

Froglanders (nautical), Dutchmen (Smyth).

Frog's march (common), a method of conveying a violent prisoner to the police-station or guard-house. The recalcitrant one is carried face downwards, with a man holding each limb.

Frolic, on a (American). "'Frolic, used for a party *on a frolic*,' seems to be a true Americanism" (R. A. Proctor). Dutch, *vrolykheyed*, mirth, jollity, gaiety. The American expression is a literal translation of an old New York Dutch phrase.

From over yonder (tailors), from Ireland.

Front (Winchester School), angry, vexed, from "affronted."

Front, to (thieves), to cover or conceal the operations of a pick-pocket.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

So my pal said, "*Front* me (cover me) and I will do him for it."—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Frontispiece (pugilistic), the face.

Front piece (theatrical), a short play or "curtain raiser" performed before a more important one.

At the Gaiety, on next Saturday evening, a farce, "*Lot* 49," by Mr. Fisher, as a *front piece* to "Frankenstein."—*Evening News.*

Frost (society), a failure, a *fiasco.*

At every grand ball in the Row or Mayfair,
The ball is a *frost* if the Marquis ain't there.
—*Anthony: The Marquis of Hanover Square. A Ballad.*

(Theatrical), a dead failure; "a *frost*, a killing *frost.*" (Popular), a dearth of work.

Frosty face (common), said of one whose face has been pitted and marked by small-pox.

Froust (Harrow), extra sleep allowed in the morning of Sundays and whole holidays.

Frow (old cant), a woman; Dutch *vrouw.*

A flash of lightning next
Bess tipt each cull and *frow*, sir,
Ere they to church did pad
To have it christen'd Joe, sir.
—*Parker: Variegated Characters.*

Frummagemmed (old cant), annihilated, strangled, garrotted, or spoilt.

Frump (old cant), as a wrinkled old woman, a witch, &c. *Frump* seems to have some connection with the Dutch *frommeln*, to crumple, and *frous*, to wrinkle up the face, frown, appear angry. As a verb it means to mock or insult, quarrel with or annoy.

Frushee (popular), an open jam tart.

Fry your face, go and (American and English), low slang expression addressed to a thin-faced, lean man. Probably a form of "dry face."

"Ga, you vas no goot, *go and vry your faces.*" "Vat you mean py tolding me dat I vas no goods? I vas so vorse as you if nod vorser. Vry my faces, indeed! I've got no faces to vry, but you vas got enof for dwo, you oldt shin-parrel!"—*Thomas Browne: The Deutschers on a Spree.*

F sharp (popular), flea.

Fubsey (thieves), fat; *fubsey* dummy, a well-filled pocket-book.

Fuddle (popular), drink; "out on the *fuddle*," out on a day's drinking. From *fuddle*, an accepted term for drinking to excess; from *full*, by an interposition of the letter *d.* The Scotch have *full* for drunk.

Fug, to (Shrewsbury), to stay in a close, stuffy room.

Fuggies (schoolboys), hot rolls (Hotten).

Fuggy (Shrewsbury), stuffy; from *fogo*, an old word for stench.

Fulhams or **fullams** (old), loaded dice. "So called," it has been suggested, "from the suburb where the Bishop of London resides, which in the reign of

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Queen Elizabeth was the most notorious place for blacklegs in all England." Dice made with a cavity were called "gourds" (scooped out like the bottle-gourd used for cups, bottles, &c.). Thus those which were loaded may have been called "full ones," hence *fullams*. Those made to throw the high and low numbers were respectively termed "high *fullams*," and "low *fullams*."

Full blast (common), anything is said to be in *full blast* when at its apogee. The allusion is obvious.

Full drive, full chisel, full split (American), at full speed, in full career; an equivalent to "hickety split," "ripping and staving along," "two thirty," and other synonyms for rapidity.

Full frame (printers), a compositor that has been a "grass hand" (which see), and secures a regular engagement, is in possession of a *full frame*.

Fullied (thieves), committed for trial. From the expression often used by magistrates, "fully committed."

So I got run in, and was tried at Maryle bone and remanded for a week, and then *fullied* and got this stretch and a half.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Fulness (tailors), "not *fulness* enough in the sleeve top," a derisive answer to a threat of personal chastisement.

Fumbles (thieves), gloves. From *fambles* or *fams*, the hands.

Function (society), party, ball, entertainment. From the Spanish *funcion*, which is used to mean any kind of meeting or performance. It came from Mexico through the American press.

The Duchess of ——, who was certainly one of the handsomest women present at the *function*.—*Society Paper.*

Functior (Winchester College), the night-light burned in chambers.

Funeral (American), "it's not my *funeral*," I don't care, it is not my business, it in no way concerns me.

Funk (general), state of nervous trepidation, fear.

. . . A good professional with the magic sixpence on the wicket will give you more trouble than many bowlers in a match, and your *funk* is just the same as a careless barrister who has not read his papers.—*Fred. Gale: The Game of Cricket.*

To *funk*, to be nervous, afraid, shrink back.

But when the time for his examination drew on the little gentleman was seized with such trepidation, and *funked* so greatly, that he came to the resolution not to trouble the examiners again.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Also to *funk* it.

Funk is declared by some authorities to be a recognised word. At any rate it is vulgar and used in a slangy sense in such phrases as "to be in a *funk*," "an awful, mortal *funk*." This term, according to De Quincey, originated among the Eton "men." Probably from *funk*, to emit an offensive smell

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

like certain animals when pursued, or people who lose physical control over themselves when in a state of great terror. This derivation seems to be borne out by the parallel French *foirer*, to be afraid, shrink back, also "faire dans sa culotte."

Funk, also a coward.

In New York the word *funk* is connected with humbug, and "Peter Funk" is a kind of mysterious spirit who inspires all kinds of petty business tricks.

Funkers (thieves), the very lowest order of thieves.

Funkster (Winchester College), one who is afraid.

Funky. *Vide* FUNK.

Furk, to (Winchester College), to expel. It is said that formerly "men" who were expelled had to go through "non licet gate" when leaving the college for good, and their clothes were sent after them on a pitchfork. If this is true, *to furk* is from the Latin *furca*, pitchfork. Otherwise the origin may be found in old English *ferke*, to hasten on or out. It has also the signification of to send. Thus boys will say that reports are *furked* home by the doctor. Also to send on a message.

Furmen (old slang), aldermen. An epithet derived from their robes of office being trimmed with fur.

Furniture pictures (studios), pictures painted by the dozen for the trade. Of the same class as "pot-boilers."

Fur out (Winchester College), angry; *i.e.*, one with *fur out* like an angry animal.

Furry tail (printers), see RAT. A workman who accepts work at an unfair house is thus termed, from the fact that a rat is *furry*.

Fush, to fush out (American), to waste, come to nothing. Dutch *futsel*, a trifle, a worthless thing; *futseln*, to fiddle, foddle, trifle, idle.

Fussock (popular), a person who makes much fuss. Formerly a fat woman, from the provincial English "fussocking," large and fat.

Fustian (thieves), wine; white *fustian*, champagne. Compare with "red tape, white velvet," &c.

Fye-buck (old), a sixpence.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

G

GAB or **gob** (popular), the mouth. This word is given by dictionaries as a recognised term, but it is used in a slangy sense, and may be considered as belonging to slang phraseology. It is derived from the Gaelic and Scotch *gab* or *gob*, mouth, idle prating, loquaciousness.

An' aye he gies the towzie drab
The tither skelpin' kiss,
While she held up her greedy *gab*
Just like an aumous dish.
—*Burns: The Jolly Beggars.*

The term is more often used in slang as the "gift of the *gab*."

In towns that have become accustomed to the franchise, the voters well know that though a man may be a moderate speaker, he may, and probably will, make a more valuable business-like member of Parliament than the one who has the *gift of the gab.—Sporting Times.*

Gabble manufactory (American), sometimes called the "*Gabble* Mill"—the Congress of the United States, though in this respect it does not seem to be worse than other national assemblies.

A mill for the manufacture of *gabble.—J. Russell Lowell.*

Gabble is a diminutive of *gab;* Danish *gabberen*, to trifle, jest; old French *se gabber*, to mock. From the Scandinavian *gabb*, mockery, according to Littré; Dutch *gabbern*, to jabber.

Gaby (common), a simpleton, a fool or country bumpkin. (The synonym "gawcum" is used in Somersetshire.) Probably from "to gape;" Danish *gabe*. This derivation seems to be borne out by the analogous *badaud*, booby, idler; from the low Latin *badare*, to yawn, to gape.

Gad (gypsy), a shirt; (popular), "upon the *gad*," upon the sudden. It also signifies restless, going about.

I have no very good opinion of Mrs. Charles' nursery-maid. . . . She is always upon the *gad.—Miss Austen: Persuasion.*

Gadding or **gadding about.** Hotten says this is only to be heard now among the lower orders, but in America it is still used by everybody. It does not mean merely "moving about," but going here and there in an irregular way, making short calls or brief pauses on the way.

She was always fond of *gadding*, and was now employed in adding
Certain graces to her charms, which some mistake
For nature's simple beauty, as apart from fashion's duty,
Although fashion's oft synonymous with "fake."
—*Sporting Times.*

Gadding the hoof (popular), walking about without shoes. Same as "padding the hoof."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Gaff (American), a steel spur fixed to the "heel" of a game-cock for fighting. From *gaff*, a barbed iron or large fishing-hook.

Gaffing is tossing, pitching, or throwing like a juggler performing. The *gaff* is a ring worn on the forefinger of the dealer. It has a sharp point (hence probably the name), on the inner side, and the gambler when dealing from a two-card box can deal out the card he chooses. Some, however, are smart enough to do this trick without the *gaff*. It is out of date.

(Popular), a *gaff* or penny *gaff*, a low place of entertainment. This term is now used for any theatre or music-hall, as the Greenwich *gaff*. This appears to be allied to *gag* (which see), or from *gaffle*, to chatter.

Two or three times a week I used to go to the Brit. in Hoxton, or the *gaff* in Shoreditch.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

(Theatrical), to *gaff*, to perform in low theatres. (Prison), a *gaff*, a pretence, imposture. In French slang *gaffe* has the meaning of joke, deceit. (Popular and thieves), "to blow the *gaff*," to divulge a secret.

One of them rushes to Smith, and demands, "Have you been ordering some sewing-machines?"

"Yes; is the *gaff* blown?" was the rejoinder.

"We have had a telegram to surround the station."—*Evening News.*

Gaff, in the sense of imposture, and blow the *gaff*, seem to be from *gaffle*, to chatter, or are allied to *gab* or *gag* (which see).

Gaffer (athletes), he who trains and "owns" primarily a Sheffield handicap runner—now he who does the same to any "ped" or pedestrian.

Gag (theatrical), an actor's or singer's interpolation in the text of a play.

The chorister boys in a western cathedral have been getting into trouble for what in theatrical strollers is called *gagging*—singing things that are not in the programme.—*James Payn, in Illustrated London News.*

Many a play has been saved from utter ruin by the self-possession of the actor or actress, who, finding himself or herself face to face with failure, has emitted some bright line, some apposite *repartee*, which in one moment has converted defeat into victory.

On its first production, the comedy of "The Jealous Wife" hung fire in the last scene, and was nearly going through altogether, until the quick-witted Mrs. Clive improvised a grotesque fainting fit, which evoked roar upon roar of laughter, put the audience into a thoroughly good humour, gave Garrick time to recover himself, and ultimately ensured a triumphant success.

Similarly Frederick Lemaitre, by sheer force of genius, combined with unique and unrivalled effrontery, at a moment's notice

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

converted a melodramatic ruffian into the incarnation of comedy, and created the character of Robert Macaire.

Paul Bedford's "I believe you, my boy," has travelled all over the globe. Chinamen and Japanese have quoted it, to prove their knowledge of the English language. Two of the most memorable *gags* of which we have any record, occurred in moments of inspiration to Macready.

The famous line at the end of the fourth act of "Richelieu"—

"Oh! for one hour of youth!"

only leaped to his lips, amidst the tumult and excitement of the scene on the night of the first representation of the play at Covent Garden.

Similarly, on the first night of "Werner," at Bristol, in an agony of paternal anguish, he rushed down to Gabor, and in a piercing voice demanded: "Are you a father?" Then he whispered: "Say No!" Gabor, taken off his guard, roared "No!" But Macready rose above him with a wail of grief, which thrilled the heart of every auditor, as he exclaimed: "Then you cannot feel for misery like mine!" At these words, the pit rose at him.

Probably one of the best remembered, and one of the happiest interpolations, took place at Covent Garden on the occasion of T. P. Cooke (the original William) taking his farewell of the stage. Having described the killing of the shark, the veteran proceeded to say—"We hauled him on deck; we cut him open. And what do you think we found in him?" The usual reply is, "Why, his innards, of course." On this occasion, genial Johnny Toole, who played Gnatbrain, replied: "I don't know what you found in him, but I know what you *didn't* find in him. You didn't find another T. P. Cooke." This *gag* brought down the house. Like everything else, *gag* is subject to the general law of "the survival of the fittest," all that is bright and appropriate abides, all that is vulgar and inappropriate is swept away by the stern stage manager.

To *gag*, to interpolate. *Gag* is old for jaw, palate. Thus to *gag* is synonymous with "to jaw," but it is possibly allied to the old French *gogue* (whence *goguenard*), a joke, from the Celtic *goguea*, to deceive, deride; and this derivation seems to be supported by the signification attributed to *gag* in English thieves' cant, *i.e.*, a *lie*, and to *hoax*.

Gage (old cant), a quart pot; from *gauge*, a measure. Written also *gage*.

I bowse no lage, but a whole *gage* of this I bowse to you.—*Brome: Jovial Crew.*

Gage or **gager**, a man. Also *cager*. *Gager* is in all probability the gypsy word *gorgio*,

meaning any man not a gypsy. Two centuries ago the English gypsies pronounced *gorgio*, "gago" (*gah'dzho*), as their brethren still do all over Europe. (Popular), a *gage*, a small quantity of anything. "*Gage*," says Hotten, "was in the last century a chamber utensil."

Gagger (theatrical), one who "gags." *Vide* GAG. Actors were formerly termed *gaggers*.

Gags or **gatherings** (Winchester College), a name given to notes which the different parts of school used to write on the work they had done in the week. Lamb used the word for pieces of mutton fat that make one retch or choke.

Gait (American thieves), manner of making a living, profession, calling.

Galaney or **galeny** (old cant), a fowl. From the Italian *gallina*, now used in the West of England in the sense of guinea-fowl. A gally-bird in Sussex is a woodpecker.

Galee (Anglo-Indian), slang for bad language. Hindu *gali*. In English gypsy *gooler* or *gāller* is a noise or tumult, and *cāller* a talking or clatter of words.

Gall (American), pluck, cheek, impudence, courage.

Dumley—"You know that contemptible little Robinson, don't you, Brown?" *Brown*—"Yes, but I don't associate with him." *Dumley*—"Well, what do you think he had the *gall* to do to-day?" *Brown*—"He has the *gall* to do anything." *Dumley*—"He asked me to drink with him; but he'll never repeat the impudence." *Brown*—"What did you do, pull his nose?" *Dumley*—"No. I ordered a champagne cocktail, and it cost him 75 cents."—*New York Sun.*

Gallanty-show (common), an exhibition in which black figures are shown on a white sheet to accompany dialogues. Generally given at night by "Punch and Judy" men (Hotten). From the Italian *galanti*, fine, often applied to small shows.

Gallery stroke (sporting), a stroke for effect; unlike "playing for the gallery," which has an almost forgotten theatrical origin. A *gallery stroke* is derived from the fact of so many games being witnessed from galleries. (Cricketers), a high hit up into the air to take the fancy of the spectators.

Galley slaves (printers), *vide* COMPS. Compositors are termed thus from the fact that their earnings, especially in newspaper offices, depend on the number of *gallies* done. A man to have a good "poll" must *slave* hard to set up a large number of *gallies*. Moxon, 1683, quotes this term.

Galley-stoker (nautical), a lazy skulker.

Galley west (American). Though it indicates an opposite direction, *galley west* means the same as "about east," being a strong superlative, as expressive of greatness or magnitude.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

I have seen the Escurial and the Vatican, and the Dolme-Bagtche, and Windsor Castle, and lots of those little dug-outs over there, but I'll be darned if this establishment of yours, Hunse, don't knock any one of them *galley west!—galley west*, sir, that's what it does.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Gallied (Australian popular), frightened.

Gallimaufry (nautical), a kind of stew made up of scraps of various kinds. Probably meaning the galley scraps (Hotten).

Gallinippers (West Indian), a facetious name given by the negroes to a very large and pertinacious kind of mosquito. Without a smile Quashie will tender information to the effect that they are the grandfathers of their species—veterans in practice and cunning. The origin of the word is obscure, except, perhaps, the "nipping" part of it.

Gallipot (popular), an apothecary, otherwise a "clyster pipe."

It's Vidler the apothecary. . . . You said you had *gallipots* enough.—*Thackeray: The Newcomes.*

Gallivant, to (common), to dance attendance upon women, to play the gallant. *Gallivant* is a corruption of gallant, the process being the same as in Samivel from Samuel. Also to roam about for pleasure. The Italians have *stare a galla*, to float about, be joyous and buoyant.

A nice thing, indeed—all the company waiting and drumming their heels, while a brat like you was *gallivanting* about.—*R. Sims: The Ring o' Bells.*

Gallivate, to (American), frisking or "figuring" about. A form of "gallivant."

Oh, Mary had a little lamb, regarding whose cuticular
The fluff exterior was white and kinked in each particular,
On all occasions when the lass was seen perambulating
This little quadruped likewise was there *a-gallivating.*
—*Tit-Bits: The Original Draft of an Ancient Chestnut MS.*

Gallon of rum among one (American), a saying attributed to an Indian, who, on being remonstrated with for his great intemperance on a certain occasion, replied: "What's *a gallon of rum among one?*" Also applied to a millionaire of grand ideas, who though single refused to take a very large villa because it was too small. "Fine enough—what's a *gallon of rum among one?*" murmured the would-be seller.

Galloper (army), an aide-de-camp. He is continually "on the move," or "on the rack," as Canadians say.

Gallows or **gallus** (common), a vulgar word for "very," in use in America and also in England until it was almost superseded by "awful," and "dreadful."

I'm hard up for capital—in short, . . . I am *gallows* hard up for capital.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

In England this was originally applied to any person or thing extremely bad, "bad enough," says Hotten, "to deserve hanging." In the United States only its

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

extreme or superlative character has been preserved. The French slang has *potence, i.e., gallows* (old English), to signify a rascally person of either sex, an abbreviation of "gibier de potence," or *gallows*-bird.

Galluptious (popular), delightful.

Gallus. *Vide* GALLOWS.

Gally slopes (old cant), breeches; abbreviated from "galligaskins," trousers first worn by the Gallic Gascons, according to Wright.

Gally yarn (nautical), a hoaxing story. A sailor expresses disbelief by saying only *g. y.* (Hotten).

Gal nymphs (Winchester College), a semi-poetical name for housemaids.

Galoot, (nautical), an awkward soldier, a sobriquet for a young marine. In its early English use it seems to be "an infamous person," and derived from the Italian *galeotto*, a galley-slave. Its meaning as a raw marine seems to indicate this. Applied in America very generally as an abusive term, often without any special meaning.

"Yaas!" he cried, striking the bar with his fist, "I've killed twenty-seven men up on the Kansas border, and ther first *galoot* thet looks cross-eyed at me'll be my meat!" —*Detroit Free Press.*

(Also American), a scamp, a rowdy.

Gamb (thieves), a leg; from the Italian *gamba.*

Game (sporting), "to play the *game*" is to do a thing thoroughly or properly. Also, lame; from Welsh *cam*, Irish *gam*, lame.

The chair . . . broke down with the publisher. Warrington burst out laughing, and said that Bacon had got the *game* chair.—*Thackeray: Pendennis.*

(Nautical), a *game*-leg, a lame limb, but not so bad as to unfit for duty (Admiral Smyth).

Gameness (common), spirit, pluck, endurance. An almost recognised word.

Whatever else you might think of Blake, there was no doubt about his *gameness.*—*T. Hughes: Tom Brown at Oxford.*

Game pullet (common), a very young prostitute, or a girl who by levity and forwardness is almost certain to become one.

Gamey (popular), brave, plucky.

"You'll be shot, I see." "Well," cried Mr. Bailey, "wot if I am; there's something *gamey* in it."—*Dickens: Martin Chuzzlewit.*

And then again we had the ring,
Of which our poets used to sing;
In those days 'twas a *gamey* thing,
Eh? Rather!
—*C. H. Ross: The Husband's Boat.*

Gammon and patter (thieves), a meeting.

Gammon the twelve, to (Australian convicts' slang), to deceive the jury.

A man who has been tried by a criminal court and by a plausible defence has induced the jury to acquit him, or to banish the capital part of the charge and so to save his life, is said by his associates to have "*gammoned the twelve* in prime twig," alluding to the number of jurymen. —*Vaux's Memoirs.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Gammy (theatrical), old, ugly, *passée*. From the Gaelic *gam*, lame, crooked, or bad. (Tramps), bad, unfavourable, forged, as in "*gammy* stuff," bad stuff; "*gammy* monniker," a forged signature; "*gammy* people," people who are hostile to the tramps. Hotten says that the hieroglyphic used by beggars or cadgers to intimate to those of the tribe coming after that things are not very favourable, is known by ᗡ or *gammy*. A *gammy*-vial (*ville*) is a town where the police interfere with tramps or hawkers.

Gamp (society), a common term for a monthly nurse. Derived from Sarah Gamp in "Martin Chuzzlewit," a monthly nurse famous for her gouty umbrella and perpetual reference to Mrs. Harris, a purely imaginary person, whose opinions always confirmed her own. (Common), an umbrella.

But I seriously declare that that wet day when I found myself stranded and desolate in an out-of-the-way village, if five shillings would have bought me the rustiest, most stump-worn and lettuce-shaped *gamp*, I would have paid down the money with delight.—*J. Greenwood: Tag, Rag, & Co.*

Gamy, foul, putrid. From a kitchen expression, as *gamy* venison, that is, like high game.

I wish, for the sake of Mr. Stickle's pigeons, that I could give a favourable account of that loft; but truth forbids. It was filthy in the extreme; and I no longer wondered how Club Row became possessed of its *gamy* atmosphere.—*J. Greenwood: Undercurrents of London Life.*

Gan (old cant), mouth.

This bowse is better than rom-bowse,
It sets the *gan* a giggling.
—*Brome: Jovial Crew.*

This is very old slang, but still in use in America. From the Italian *ganascia*, jaw, a jawbone.

Gander, a married man. A very old English term, but still in use in America, where a *gander* (also a "stag") party means a gathering of men only. *Gander*-month in England is the time during a wife's confinement, so called, in Hotten's opinion, from the free range which the husband has at that time among the "geese." It may be remarked in this connection that *geese* or *gheeze* in Dutch slang means a young girl, any girl; also a lady of pleasure. It is very probable that there is an undercurrent of meaning in reference to these slang words in the nursery rhyme:—

"Goosey, Goosey *Gander*,
Whither dost thou wander?
Up stairs, down stairs,
In my lady's chamber."

Gandy month (common). *Vide* GANDER-MONTH under GANDER.

Gaoler's coach (old slang), a hurdle on which at one time it was customary to convey criminals to the place of execution.

Gape-seed (common), something to look at, cause for astonishment; a lazy fellow unmindful

NATIONAL ARCHIVES INDIA

of his work is said to be looking for *gape-seed* (Hotten).

Gapes (popular), fit of yawning.

Another hour of music was to give delight or the *gapes*, as real or affected taste for it prevailed.—*Miss Austen: Persuasion.*

Gapped (old slang), getting the worst of it. From old hunting slang.

I will never meet at hard-edge with her; if I did . . . I should be confoundedly *gapped.—Richardson: Grandison.*

Garden (London), for tradesmen and others, Covent Garden Market; for actors, Covent Garden Theatre. (Thieves), to "put one in the *garden*," to cheat a confederate out of his share.

Gardener (popular), an awkward coachman. "Get on, *gardener*," is a most insulting expression from a cabby to a real coachman (Hotten). The allusion is to families who employ the *gardener* as coachman.

Gargle (common), a drink. The term was first used by medical students.

A hasty introduction and a diplomatic slope
On the part of the ingenious Mr. B.,
And the gay and gallant Green was, single-handed, left to cope
With the siren who dispensed the L.S.D.
But her taste for high-priced *gargles* could in no wise be restrained,
She appeared to look on oof as so much dirt,
And he very soon discovered all the assets that remained
Were a card-case and a ticket for a shirt. —*Sporting Times.*

Garnish (old slang), a fee exacted by the keepers of gaols from the prisoners for extra comforts, real or imaginary. In Yorkshire this term means footing money.

Garret (common), the head, or upper storey. To have one's *garret* unfurnished is to be a fool.

As Blagg rolled over them, and they rolled over Blagg,
While what's called the "claret" flew over the *garret*.
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Garreter (thieves), a thief who gets on the roofs of houses and effects an entrance by a garret window.

Garrison hack (army), a young lady brought up in a garrison town, and who, according to the definition of an officer, "knows all the officers by their Christian names."

Garrotting (cardsharpers), cheating by concealing certain cards at the back of the neck (Hotten). The allusion is obvious.

Garters (nautical), the irons or bilboes.

Gas (common), boastful talk, bounce.

"The Frog he would a-wooing go" is excellently done,
By Mr. Henry Gascoigne, at the merry "Marry-bun!"
In wishing him success of it, we one and all may join,
He has so little *gas*, he ought to take a lot of "coigne."
—*Fun.*

To gas is to bounce or brag; to give *gas*, to scold or give a

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

beating. (Popular), "none of your old *gas*," do not brag, none of your nonsense. *Gas* in old French (from Latin *gaudere*), signifies a joke, mockery; but there is apparently no connection.

Gas bag (common), a man of words and wind, a gasconader. "To gas" and "gassing," as used in America, are the equivalents of the French *blaguer* and *blague*, German *gasebalg*.

Gas pipes (printers), bad rollers.

Gassy (common), liable to "flare up" at any offence. (American), talkative, bouncing, full of wind. According to Kluge (*Etymologisches Worterbreck der Deutschen Sprache*) the word "gas" was invented by Van Helmont, the alchymist, who died in 1744.

Gate-bill (Oxford University), a list of the names and time of coming in of those who return to College after ten at night.

Gate-race (sporting), a mock race got up not so much for the best runner to win, as for the money taken from the spectators (Hotten).

Gater (Winchester College), a leap head first into a "pot" or canal lock.

Gate, to (University), to punish a student by restricting his freedom of going outside the College gate.

The Dean gave him a book of Virgil to write out, and *gated* him for a fortnight after hall.—*T. Hughes: Tom Brown at Oxford.*

Gathering the taxes (tailors), calling at workshops when on the road.

Gating. *Vide* GATE.

Gats (Shrewsbury school), quantity, number.

They are called up in *gats* of three at a time.—*Everyday Life in our Public Schools.*

Gatter (popular), porter.

Lots of *gatter*, quo' she, are flowing,
Lend me a lift in the family way.
—*William Maginn.*

It has been suggested that the term is from a play on "gater," meaning gate-keeper and porter; or from "gutter," the conduit from which the beer flows in public-houses.

Gaudy (Oxford University and Inns of Court), grand feast, from *gaudium*. Also the annual dinner of the fellows of a college in memory of founders and benefactors.

Gawfs (costermongers), cheap red-skinned apples.

Gawney (provincial), common among the lower orders. It means a sawney or half-witted person.

Gawpus (nautical), a stupid, idle fellow; a "gawcum" is a provincialism with the same signification.

Gay (common), loose, dissipated; a "*gay* woman" or "*gay* girl,"

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

a prostitute. "All *gay*," *vide* ALL GAY.

Gay tyke boy (popular), a dog-fancier (Hotten).

G. B. (American), an abbreviation of "grand bounce," *i.e.*, a rejection, dismissal, or being turned out or disinherited.

My dad and I
Have had a round-about, and he has dis
Sis-sis-inherited me; and I have
Been given the *G. B.* on your account,
My be-be-beautiful!
—*A Californian Romance.*

G. C. of C., the (American). The Glorious Climate of California, and the Intellect of Boston, are such stock phrases in the United States, that academical writers have suggested the expediency of reducing them, like Anno Domini, to initials.

If the "glorious climate of California" is responsible for the exceedingly hopeful prospects of Rocklin's future census reports, and the said lively outlook, materialised, is responsible for my mishap, then plainly the said *G. C. of C.* is the responsible element in the case.—*Thomas Stevens: Around the World on a Bicycle.*

Geebung (native word adopted by the settlers), an Australian wild-fruit.

Gee or **gee-gee** (common), a horse. From *gee* or *gee up*, to turn to the off side.

"I'm sick of seconds," said the Tealeaf, shutting up his book with a bang, after backing five *gee-gees* in succession, who had occupied this unenviable position.—*Bird of Freedom.*

(Popular), it won't *gee*, it will not do. From a provincialism.

Gee-gee dodge (commercial), selling horse-flesh as animal food.

The employés I interviewed were encouraged to speak plainly and without reserve; and unknown one to the other, they all agreed in the assurance that to their knowledge the *gee-gee* dodge, as they called it, was seldom or ever practised by their masters—the main safeguard for the public being that it was impossible to bargain with any one for a regular supply.—*J. Greenwood: Veiled Mysteries.*

Geekie (Scottish thieves), police-office.

Connor next asked her where it was, to which she replied, "Ben the *geekie*." He did not understand this at the time, but from the light which he afterwards got he knew it to mean the police-office.—*Police News.*

Geezer (popular), wife, old woman. Dutch slang, *geeze* or *geese*, a girl, a mistress, *vide* GANDER. Also a man derisively.

He'd flirt and boat, but never wrote
A note to his old *geezer*.
—*J. F. Mitchell: Jimmy Johnson's Holiday.*

Geneva print (nautical), gin.

And if you meet
An officer preaching of sobriety,
Unless he read it in *Geneva print*,
Lay him by the heels.
—*Massinger.*

Gent (popular), a contraction of gentleman, generally applied to a dressy fellow. Originated about 1847 from tailors' advertisements. The *gent* was the 'Arry of that time.

Last summer to Brighton invited,
My friends, on a visit I went,
And while on the sands promenading
I met with a handsome young *gent*.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA

His figure was that of Adonis,
His eyes they were really divine,
And oh! how my heart beat with rapture
When he turned and his eyes they met mine.
—*Harry Hartley: Writing his Name on the Sands.*

(Old cant), money; from *argent.*

Gentleman commoner (Oxford University), a student who pays higher fees and dines with the fellows of the college. At Cambridge the phrase is a "fellow commoner."

Gentleman of three outs (popular), without money, without sense, without manners.

Gentleman's companion (thieves), a louse.

Gentlemen (nautical), the messmates of the gunroom or cockpit—as mates, midshipmen, clerks, and cadets (Admiral Smyth).

Gentlemen of observation (turf), an euphemism for "touts."

An equally strong force of the "touting" fraternity, and the sight of a battalion of these *gentlemen of observation*, as they are more politely called, under the trees of the "Limekilns," is one of the most interesting sights of our morning's walk at a meeting. —*Bird o' Freedom.*

Gentlemen of the green baize road (gaming), plunderers at the card table, sharpers (Dickens' "Bleak House"); based upon the familiar phrase, "knights of the road," *i.e.*, highwaymen; hence *gentlemen of the green baize road* is equivalent to cheating gamblers, or sharpers—cards, dice, and similar games being generally played upon tables covered with green baize.

Gentle, to (American, Western), to tame horses after the halter breaking, or rough breaking in is accomplished.

That's so. I ain't got a colt at all in the corrals *to gentle* now.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Gentry cove (canting), a gentleman.

The *gentry cove* will be romboyled by his dam. Queer cuffin will be the word yet if we don't tout. — *Beaconsfield: Venetia.*

Gentry, flash (thieves), swell thieves.

Oh, if my hands adhere to cash,
My gloves are at least clean,
And rarely have the *gentry flash*
In sprucer clothes been seen.
—*Lytton: Paul Clifford.*

Gentry mort (old cant), a lady.

Genuine, to (Winchester College), to praise.

Geordie (nautical), a north country collier.

George Horne (printers), a common exclamation among printers to a person who tells some old story as if it were new. Also abbreviated sometimes to G. H. *Vide* STEREO. This exclamation owes its origin to a certain Mr. George Horne, a typographer, who was in the habit of retailing stale news.

Georgetown Yelper, the (American), name of a mythical or imaginary newspaper invented

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

by an editor when he wishes to publish original matter as borrowed. The name is only given in illustration, any other may be substituted.

Office boy to editor, respectfully—"Foreman says we need half a column more of editorial."

Editor—"Tell him to take that article we had on Blaine's speech day before yesterday, beginning, 'The following scathing review of Jim Blaine's late abortive effort from the *Jonesburg Terror* is so illustrative of our views that we,' &c., and run it in again, with the name of the *Georgetown Yelper* inserted in place of the other paper."

Georgic (Eton), to order a boy to do a *georgic* was a favourite punishment with irate Eton masters. It consisted in writing out about 800 lines of Latin, an operation which took at least three hours for the fastest writers.

Then he pulled himself together, dashed into the house and upstairs, where he found Palmer Budd, a fellow of infinite jest and some daring, "staying out," stutteringly demanded if he were the culprit, received an affirmative, inflicted a *georgic*, and then sought for his footman. —*Sketchy Memories of Eton.*

German duck (popular), sheep's head stewed with onions.

German ducks (popular), bugs; otherwise knows as B flats, in opposition to F sharps, *i.e.*, fleas.

German flutes (rhyming slang), a pair of boots.

Germans (common), sausages.

I am glad to be able to state that—having spent several half-hours in the company of as many separate witnesses, all of them employed at different manufactories of *germans*, "collared head," and "spiced beef," chiefly for supplying shops situated in the poorest and most densely populated neighbourhoods—as far as I can make out there is at present no danger that our feline pets will go hungry because of the wholesale conversion of their favourite food into sausages.—*J. Greenwood: Veiled Mysteries.*

Gerry (old cant). C. J. R. Turner translates this as excrement, and derives it from the Latin *gerræ*, trifles, stuff, nonsense. It also occurs in cant as *jeer*, in which case it is simply the gypsy *jeer*, *jir*, the rectum, also excrement, though *fûl* is the common word for the latter. Where it occurs as *iere*, Mr. Turner derives it from the Gaelic *inneir*, dung, which is hardly so close as *jeer*.

Gerry gan (old cant), hold your tongue. *Vide* GERRY and GAN.

Gerry gan, the ruffian clye thee.
—*Harman: Caveat.*

Gerund-grinder (common), a schoolmaster.

Get against the game, to (American), a term borrowed from poker, but in general use to signify taking risks in anything.

Get a grind on any one, to (American), to have a joke on a man, to play a trick, or to have "a good story" to tell against him, it being a popular belief that anything which annoys, pains, or vexes a person is "smart," or witty.

Get a hat, to (cricketers), to bowl three wickets in three consecutive balls; originally one was

supposed to be presented with a new cocked hat when he had achieved the feat.

Get a set on, to (Australian popular), to have a spite against. This is a variation of the English "to make a dead-set against."

Get at, to (racing), to put *hors-de combat*, to corrupt. "Getting at" meant originally getting access to a horse to injure it, but it has also been transferred to those connected with the horse, the owner, the trainer, the jockey, the veterinary surgeon. Applied to them it meant the same as "get round," or "square," *i.e.*, to corrupt into not running the horse fairly. From this it has been applied to any kind of corruption. For instance rabid Tories have accused Mr. Gladstone of having been *got at* by the Irish Americans.

"You see, sir," he explained, "there are no end of loafing vagabonds about that 'ere Yering; who knows but what some of 'em might take it into their heads *to get at* him."—*A. C. Grant.*

Get away (American), a locomotive, called in English popular slang a "puffer." Also a railway train.

Get back into your box! (American), be quiet, silence!

Get behind a man, to (common), to indorse a man's bill.

Get even with, to (common), to revenge one's self.

Those who think this country fails *to get even with* France for her unjust discrimination against American pork possibly have never heard a graduate of an American young ladies' boarding-school mangling French. The revenge is terrible. —*American Newspaper.*

Get off a keen, to (American cadet), to make a witty remark.

Get one cold, to (American), to have a man at advantage, to "best him," to "have him dead to rights." To pin a man down, or to catch him. To get one foul (MS. Americanisms).

Get-penny (old slang), a paying speculation. It occurs in Kirkman's "Wits or Sports upon Sports" (1673).

Get set, to (cricket), to begin to play well, when the batsman is "getting his eye in."

Get, give the mitten, to (American Universities), to be expelled, to expel from college.

(Popular), to be discarded or jilted, to discard, jilt.

There is a young lady I have set my heart on; though whether she is a goin' to give me hers, or *give me the mitten*, I ain't quite satisfied.—*Sam Slick: Human Nature.*

Get the needle, to (cards), to lose much money at a game. (Common), to get angry. To *give the needle*, to make angry.

And fancy *my* slang being stale, Charlie!
Gives me the needle, that do.
In course I've been in it for years, mate,
and mix up the old and the new;
But if the St. James's young gentleman
fancies hisself on this lay,
I'll "slang" him for glasses all round, him
whose patter fust fails 'im to pay.
—*Punch.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Get there, to (American), to succeed. A characteristic American expression very freely used in conversation. "The speculation book's rather smoky—but I'll *get there*," means that though the venture is unpromising at present it will prove profitable in the end.

Get there with both feet, to (West American), to be very successful.

He said as he'd been gambling, and was two hundred dollars ahead of the town. He *got there with both feet* at starting, and was eight hundred ahead once, but he played it off at monte.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Get the run, to (English and Australian), to be discharged.

Get the sack or bag, to (common), to be discharged. As the "bagman" is the traveller of the firm, very possibly *to get the bag* means to be sent on one's travels. *Cf.* "get the sack," "get the run." Compare also German "einen korb behommen," to get a basket, to be dismissed.

"Do you know to whom you are talking?" replied the Governor. "No, and I am —— if I care," came the answer; and it took all the illustrious personage's powers of persuasion to get the man to take him across. The ferryman now knows who his passenger was. He has *got the sack.*—*Modern Society.*

Getting an encore (tailors), having to rectify something wrong with your job.

Getting into his wool, wooling him (American), beating a man, assaulting him violently. A simile borrowed from the negroes, who in fighting attack the head and pull the hair.

Chicago traders are *getting into Philadelphia's wool* in fine styie.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Getting on (turf), backing a horse for any particular race. The term usually implies a more or less hurried operation.

Getting out (racing), laying against a horse previously backed. This is almost invariably done in haste, though perhaps not more often repented of at leisure than are most speculations.

Getting the length of his foot (popular), knowing what is preferred, and acting accordingly.

Getting your flannels. *Vide* FLANNELS.

Getting your hand on him (tailors), not trusting him, suspicious.

Get, to (American), to depart hastily. It is generally in the form "you *get!*" *i.e.*, "begone." There is also an expression, "you bet!" meaning that you may bet on it, or be sure of the matter in question.

One night Bill heard a noise. It was a burglar who had clamberated the grapevine arbour, and was just going to entrance the window. Bill he grabbed his gun and drew a bead on the burg, saying, "You *get!*" The burg looked up, and seeing the iron, replied, "You bet," and retreated. —*The Tale of Bill Shuter.*

Get-up (common), dress, pure and simple, or dress with marked

intention in, or mode of dressing. To *get up* well is to be perfectly dressed.

The Empress of Austria never went out hunting without her fan, the only thing that seemed strange to English eyes in a very perfect costume and *get-up.*—*The World.*

The way in which he received my civil application was complimentary at least to my *get-up.* In evident agitation and alarm he informed me that he did not want anything to say to me.—*J. Greenwood: Tag, Rag, & Co.*

Get up and dust (American), arise and depart; the idea being that a man or a horse raises a dust as he goes on the road.

While dusting the furniture a Bangor serving-maid fell out of a second-storey window. She then placidly arose and *dusted herself.*—*Detroit Free Press.*

Get up one's Injun, to (American). When a man feels his temper rising with a certain amount of determined ferocity he is said to feel the Indian rising in him.

Ghastly (society), the commonest emphatic word of the day, signifying bad, awful.

Ghaut (Anglo-Indian), a landing-place, or path of descent to a river.

The country-people call this place the *ghaut,*
And from its foot-hills scanty breath there be.
—*Burton: Translation of Camoens.*

Ghee (Anglo-Indian), boiled butter; used in cooking through all India.

"In most of the prisons of Hyder Ali it was the custom (of European prisoners) to celebrate particular days, when the funds permitted, with the luxury of plantain fritters (fried bananas), a draught of sherbet, and a convivial song. On one occasion the old Scotch ballad 'My wife has ta'en the *gee*' was admirably sung and loudly encored. It was reported to the Kelledar (commander of the fort) that the prisoners said and sung through all the night of nothing but *ghee.* The Kelledar, certain that discoveries had been made regarding his malversations in that article of garrison stores, determined to conciliate their secrecy by causing an abundant supply of this unaccustomed luxury to be henceforth placed within the reach of their farthing purchases" (Wilkes' Historical Sketches, Anglo-Indian Glossary).

Ghost-racket (American), any event or narrative into which the spiritual or ghostly element enters.

The most novel *ghost-racket* on record has just been worked by a Jersey detective in a vain attempt to scare an ignorant German into confessing that he was a murderer.—*Chicago Tribune.*

We have had the tallest *ghost-racket* here in our town that you ever did audit. —*Washington (Pa.) Eagle.*

Ghost walking (theatrical), a term originally applied by an impecunious stroller in a sharing company to the operation of "holding the treasury," or paying the salaries, which has

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

become a stock facetiæ amongst all kinds and descriptions of actors. Instead of inquiring whether the treasury is open, they usually say—"Has the *ghost* walked?" or "What! has this thing appeared again?" (Shakspeare).

A new play called "The Skeleton" has been produced at a Vaudeville matinée. It isn't likely to be in much esteem with the actors, owing to a natural deficiency of "fat," although, on the other hand, it may certainly be expected to offer a favourable opportunity for the *ghost to walk.*—*Funny Folks.*

(Commercial), in large firms, when the clerk whose duty it is goes round the various departments paying wages, it is common to say the *ghost walks.*

Ghouls (American), prying and spying reporters for newspapers who chronicle the meanest gossip of private life. The term originated in the "ghoulish glee" of President Cleveland. The word *ghoul* is a great favourite with American newspaper writers, and is used in every grammatical form, as to *ghoul*, *ghouler*, *ghoulest*, and *ghoulette*, a female ghoul, especially a blackmail-levying prostitute.

The *ghouls* also reported that Mrs. Folsom, in the absence of Mrs. Cleveland, had licked Hector (the President's dog) for being too fresh and promiscuous. . . . The *ghouls* who haunt Mr. Cleveland are not confined to the Republican press. Far from it. A *ghoul* of the Washington *Post* reported that the sex of Hector had been misunderstood, and his (her) real sex just discovered.—*New York World.*

Ghoulish glee (American), an expression first used by President Cleveland, which immediately became a popular catch-word. It may be observed that in the following paragraph there is a slang expression in every sentence.

Some newspaper with *ghoulish glee* remarks that the President undertook to pull down his Vest, but that Vest pulled him down. It is certain that he squatted. He bounced Benton for making partizan speeches, and was scared into putting him back into office. It is the completest backdown known to the White House.—*Chicago Tribune.*

G. I. (printers), "general indulgence," *i.e.*, a birthday, holiday treat, and is also the festive occasion when an apprentice "comes of his time," an event signalised by much noise, and usually followed by bread and cheese and beer. Sometimes the words "great independence" are attributed to these letters on such an occasion, specially referring to the independence gained by the apprentice.

Gib (prison and army), slang for Gibraltar, to which transportation ceased in 1875. (Nautical), a forelock.

Gib face (popular), a heavy, ugly face. To "hang one's *gib*," to pout the lower lip. *Gib* is properly the lower lip of a horse, or a bump or swelling.

Gideon's band (American), a slang term for good-fellowship, association, union for carousing, &c.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

The term comes from a negro minstrel song, the air and some of the words of which were originally of a camp-meeting or Methodist hymn.

Oh, keep your hat upon your head,
For you may need it when you're dead;
Oh, keep your shoes upon your feet,
That you may walk the golden street.

Ch. If you belong to *Gideon's band*,
Oh, here's my heart and here's my hand,
We're hunting for a home.

Oh, keep your trousers on your legs,
That you may hang 'em on the golden pegs;
'Twixt you and me, I really think
It's pretty near time to take a drink,
If you belong to *Gideon's band*.

Gift-house (printers), a house of call. Compositors have their "gifts" also, or clubs—a limited number of members being admitted only, and their objects being to find employment or to provide for non-employment in the shape of a provident allowance.

Gig (popular), a farthing, the nose.

Gigger (tailors), sewing-machine; from "to gig," to make a noise.

Gig-lamps (common), spectacles. A person who wears spectacles is sometimes called *gig-lamps*.

He had chosen his friend Verdant to be his prompter; so that the well-known *gig-lamps* of our hero formed, as it were, a very focus of attraction.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Gills (popular), the jaws, the face; to give a "bang in the *gills*," to strike one in the face. Also a high or large shirt collar.

Gilt (popular), money; from the German *geld*, Dutch *gelt*. *Guelte*, in French shopmen's assistants' slang, is the percentage allowed them on the sale. Shakspeare has punned on the word *gilt*.

Have for the *gilt* of France,
O guilt indeed!
—*Henry V.*

(Thieves), a crowbar.

Gilt-edged (American), as the best note-paper was once always *gilt-edged*, the term passed to the Stock Exchange to denote the paper or promissory notes of the first class, on which there could be no risk. Hence the expression became general for anything superlative.

"A man is an infernal fool to play poker anywhere," said a well-known sport and politician to a *Tribune* reporter the other evening; "but he is a *gilt-edged* idiot to play the game in a card-room or anywhere else where Tom, Dick, and Harry may take a hand."—*Chicago Tribune.*

Gilt-tick (costermonger), money as represented by gold coins.

Gimcrack (provincial), a handy man, a universal mechanic or Jack of all trades. In this sense common in Northamptonshire. (Popular), a spruce person.

Gimlet-eyed (common), with very small eyes.

Gin (Australian), the wife of an Australian native.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

An Australian settler's wife bestows on some poor slaving *gin* a cast-off French bonnet.—*C. Kingsley: Two Years Ago.*

Gin and Gospel Gazette (journalistic), *The Morning Advertiser.* So called from the fact of its having for a long period, in the early days of its existence, devoted a portion of its space to the announcements of its particular *clientèle*, and another to advertisements of works on theology, and notices of preachers at London churches and chapels.

Ginger (theatrical), an idiom derived from the vocabulary of the stables. If an actor plays a part tamely, or ineffectively, it is a common phrase to say "he wants *ginger*." (Popular), a man with red, yellow, or yellow-brownish-red hair.

The man that I loved was as fair as could be,
The man that I married's a sort of a *ginger*,
The man that I loved paid attention to me,
The man that I married my feelings doth injure.
—*T. C. Lewis: The Man I Loved and the Man I Married.*

A *ginger*, a showy, fast horse. From a well-known practice of horse-dealers.

Gingerbread (thieves), money.

Your old dad had the *gingerbread.*—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

Ginger-snap (American), a hot-tempered person, particularly one with yellowish or ginger-coloured hair. A *ginger-snap* is also a very hard ginger biscuit.

Her face was covered with tears and woe, and her little fist aided her apron in dabbing more sorrow from her eyes. "O teacher, teacher," she sobbed, "Maudie's calling me names. Maudie [a sob] called me [another sob] a *ginger-snap*, boo-hoo!"—*American Newspaper.*

Gingham (common), an umbrella.

He was one of the great unpaid and self-elected flock of hypocrites yclept evangelists, and, with a *gingham* in one hand and a bundle of tracts in the other, he entered a third-class compartment.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Gingle-boys (old), coin.

We thank our fates, the sign of the *gingle-boys* hangs at the door of our pockets.—*Massinger: Virgin Martyr.*

Ginning it up (American), "working things up," working hard and energetically at anything.

The Apaches were out to beat hell—at least that was the tune we were all talking to about that time. And they were *ginning her up*, and making things a bit lively, that's a fact.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

The origin is from working at a cotton gin.

Gin penny (costermongers), the extra profit charged to provide the "glass of something short" before going home.

Gin spinner, a distiller or rectifier of gin (Hotten).

Gip (thieves), a thief, abbreviated from gypsy.

Gippies (journalistic), explained by quotation.

Colonel Kitchener will probably stick to his original intention of having only *gippies* (as they call the Egyptian soldiers here) at Suakim.—*The World.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF INDIA

Give, to (common), used in a slangy sense in the phrase "to *give* it one," to scold, to thrash. "I'll *give* it you;" in French, "Je vais t'en donner;" Italian, "To vi lo daro." (American), *to give* is extensively used to form active verbs of extremely varied forms. "*To give* on the make," to be clever at profiting. "*To give* on praying," to excel in prayer. With certain persons it is used as frequently as "fix."

Give away, to (American), to inadvertently betray or injure one's self. The man who through forgetfulness or maladroitness "lets out" that he himself has been guilty of something which he had previously condemned gives himself away conspicuously. Also to communicate a thing or to violate confidence. It is said of a Yankee damsel in a university town that she once expressed great horror at the conduct of certain girls with the students. "I was going," she said, "by the College early the other morning, when I saw a great basket being let down with a young lady in it." Here the tale was interrupted, and when it was resumed the fair narrator forgetfully added—"Oh, yes! wasn't it awful? just when about ten feet from the ground the rope broke—and down I came!" "There you *gave yourself away*," remarked a hearer. The expression came into common use about 1868. In its original meaning it was limited to inadvertent betrayal. It is now vaguely used in several senses.

Give a weight, to (street), to help a person in lifting a heavy weight.

Give best, to (popular), to leave, leave off, to yield.

But after a time I *gave him best* (left him) because he used to want to bite my ear (borrow) too often.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

To give best means originally to acknowledge, and thus passes easily to mean the natural corollary of a confession of inferiority, relinquishing or submitting. Also used in Australia.

Accordingly after publication on Friday (it was a bi-weekly paper, the defunct *Pleasant Creek Chronicle*) we "rushed in" our "dis." and *gave* the case-room *best* on Saturday morning.—*Thos. L. Work: Australian Printer's Keepsake.*

Give 'em Jessie, a party war-cry widely current in the Presidential Campaign of 1856. Fremont, the Republican candidate, had fifteen years before made a runaway match with Jessie, daughter of Thomas H. Benton, and the popular favour with which runaway matches are apt to be regarded was made much of in this case, the lady's name being freely used in song and story by her husband's political supporters. It was, however, in common use a century before Jessie Fremont was born. It is probably an allusion to the "rod of Jesse" in the Old Testament.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Give him a chance for his white alley (American), let him have a last chance for, a forlorn hope, a fluke, give the man one more trial. A figure borrowed from the boys' game of marbles.

Give it a bone (common), "stop it," or "that's stale." The metaphor is, of course, that of giving a dog a bone to stop his noise.

Give it mouth (popular), speak up. In Italian, "dar la bocca."

Give it to (old cant), to rob; "I *gave it to* him for his reader," I stole his pocket-book.

Give sky-high, to (Australian and popular), to blow up, to scold in the most immoderate fashion. The metaphor is from "blowing up"—sometimes simply "to sky-high" is used.

Give the collar, to (American), to seize, arrest, to "collar."

"The charge is drunkenness."

"Yes, I suppose so, but here is the case: I left home at eight o'clock in the evening to buy a pork chop for breakfast. I buy my chop and am going home in a peaceful manner, when a policeman comes up and *gives me the collar*."—*Detroit Free Press.*

Give the word, to (theatrical), to prompt.

Give us a rub of your thumb (tailors), show me how you do it.

Giving out (theatrical), announcing in front of the curtain the performances for the following evening—generally done by the Juvenile Man, sometimes the Manager, and very often by the Walking Gent, if he is young and a favourite with the fair sex.

Giving you a hoist (tailors), doing you a bad turn.

Glasgow magistrate, a salt herring. When George IV. visited Scotland a wag placed some salt herrings on the iron guard of the carriage belonging to a well-known Glasgow magistrate, who made one of a deputation to receive his Majesty (Hotten).

Glass (thieves), an hour.

Glass work (cardsharpers), explained by quotation.

"What on earth is *glass work*?"

"The use of a convex mirror about the size of a small coin. It is fastened with shellac to the lower corner of the left palm, opposite the thumb, and reflects the cards as dealt. Gamblers generally made them by buying those little silvered glass globes used for children's Christmas trees and breaking out a piece. Sometimes the mirrors were set in half-crowns and laid carelessly on the table, but that is all gone by now, and to-day a man must be able to take a square pack of cards and do all his work without apparatus."—*Star.*

Glaze (popular), glass; "to star the *glaze*," to break a window pane. *Glaze* for glass is old gypsy.

Glaziers (thieves), the eyes. (Anglo-Norman), *glas*, bright or blue, allied to glass.

Toure out with your *glaziers*, I swear by the ruffin
That we are assaulted by a queer cuffin.
—*Brome: A Jovial Crew.*

I.e., "Look out with all your eyes, I swear by the devil a magistrate is coming."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Glib (popular), tongue; "slacken your *glib*."

Glib gabbet (nautical), smooth and ready of speech. *Vide* GAB.

Glim (popular and thieves), an eye.

Harold escaped with the loss of a *glim*. —*Ingoldsby Legends.*

A light or candle.

"Don't make such a row," said Sikes, bolting the door. "Show a *glim*, Toby." —*Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

"Douse the *glim*," blow the candle out. (Nautical), *glims*, spectacles. (Common), the *glim*, gonorrhea.

Glimflashy (popular), angry.

Don't be *glimflashy*; why, you'd cry beef on a blater.—*Lytton: Pelham.*

Glim lurk (begging-letter writers), a begging petition giving an account of a fire in which some relative of the impostor is said to have perished or been injured. A common dodge, by which the writer of this was once "taken in."

Glimmering morte (old cant), a woman who solicited alms under the pretence that she had lost all her property by fire.

Globe rangers (nautical), a sobriquet for the Royal Marines.

Globes (American), a woman's breasts.

Globe-trotters (common), travellers who have gone round the world.

These coachmen are such privileged beings that they play practical jokes on even high and distinguished *globe-trotters*. Ben Halliday's upon Horace Greeley, the eccentric editor of the *New York Tribune* and once candidate for the Presidency of the United States, has gone the rounds of the English world's press.—*H. L. Williams: In the Wild West.*

Glope, to (Winchester College), to spit.

Glorious (popular), intoxicated.

Glory-Hole (popular), the hall for worship used by members of the Salvation Army. So called originally from a cellar or underground place of meeting in Brighton.

These hoary-headed buffers,
And devil-dodging duffers,
At the *Glory-Hole* in Teddy Street they rave.
Young women and young girls
They denude—of all their curls,
When they get them in their den or rather cave.
—*Broadside: The Brighton Glory-Hole.*

Gloves (racing), "going for the *gloves*," betting with utter disregard to means of payment. The maxim laid down by Montrose that—

"He either fears his fate too much,
Or his deserts are small,
Who fears to put it to the touch,
To win or lose it all,"

may embody a sound policy in love affairs, but is not to be commended to the turf speculator.

When the piquets were up it was a man's own fault if he was welshed. Among the established men who bet at the lists there

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

was seldom a welsher, or any one *going for the gloves*, and this was the great thing to be said in favour of the lists that are now gone for ever.—*Sporting Times.*

Glove trick (American thieves), a variety of what is known in Paris as the "vol à l'Américaine," or the taking in a dishonest person in such a way as to make the "victim" think he is cheating the one who is the master-thief.

"The success of this game is dependent on the latent dishonesty of the victims. The properties consist of a handsome kid glove and a cheap ring with a stone in it. The ring is stuck in a finger of the glove so as to be most conspicuous, and the two are dropped at the feet of a woman as she is walking in the street. 'I beg your pardon,' the "crook" exclaims, 'you've dropped your glove!' The woman would look at it, perceive that there was a ring in it, and if she were dishonest would claim it. Then the crook would demur. 'Maybe the glove did not belong to the lady—and now he noticed it, there was a ring in it!' The woman, five times out of ten—for the thief reads faces easily—would say, 'I'm sure it's mine—but here is something for yourself,' and would give him five dollars for what she believed was a valuable solitaire" (*Philadelphia Press*).

Glow (tailors), ashamed; derived doubtless from the warm "tint" the face assumes under embarrassing circumstances.

Glue-pot (old cant), a clergyman, because he joined men and women in the bonds of matrimony, glued or cemented them together.

Glumpish (popular), sulky.

Glutton (pugilistic), a hard fighter, one who never seems to have had enough fighting.

Go (general), impetus, energy, spirit, vigour, strength of purpose, a proceeding. This originally slang word has established itself in the language by dint of general usefulness and expressiveness. Its vulgar offshoot "*go* it" is not likely to be equally successful.

Still, when we get to Victoria, though the air of intense energy and *go* has vanished, there is something that appeals more strongly to the English mind.—*Phillipps-Wolley: Trottings of a Tenderfoot.*

The strange costumes, the bold riding, the actors so picturesque, the *go* and action so vigorous, all combine to make the brilliant show one of the most exciting that Londoners have ever seen.—*Bailey's Monthly Magazine.*

"A rum *go*," a strange affair; "a great *go*," a remarkable or important affair; "all the *go*," much in vogue; "no *go*," impossible; "a pretty *go*," a trouble, unfortunate circumstance, scrape.

(Turf), an owner or jockey are equally said to be having or not having a *go*, according to their supposed intentions with regard

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

to a race. The horse, though implicated in the transaction only as a more or less passive instrument, is also thus spoken of.

(Popular), a *go*, a drink; termed formerly a *go*-down.

So they went on talking politics, puffing cigars, and sipping whisky and water, until the *goes*, most appropriately so called, were both gone.—*Sketches by Boz.*

(Thieves), "to *go* the jump," to enter a house by the window.

Go abroad, to (popular and thieves), formerly signified to be transported.

The Artful Dodger *going abroad* for a common twopenny-halfpenny sneeze-box! —*Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Goads (American), Peter Funks (which see). "Coppers" in gambling houses.

Go along (popular and thieves), a fool, also "go alonger."

Go and bust yourself (roughs), equivalent to "you be blowed;" also "go and eat coke."

"*Go and bust yerself*—go and eat coke!"

A hero has spoken. . . .

—*Sporting Times.*

Go and hire a hall (American), a common expression which is very characteristic of a people as familiar with lectures and public discussions as the Americans. It is addressed to a bore who talks a long time, or always on some special subject. Such people who insist on delivering impromptu lectures are told to *go and hire a hall.*

If you're always dropping chestnuts,
Like the forest in the Fall,
Even though they are the best nuts,
You had better *hire a hall!*
Oh, *go and hire a hall!*
It would please us one and all,
You can splatter at your leisure,
If you *go and hire a hall!*
—*C. Leland Harrison: MS. Collection of Americanisms—Negro Minstrel Ballad.*

Go-ashores (nautical), a seaman's best dress.

Go as you please (athletes), a race in which the competitors may run, walk, or rest as they like. Usually applied to the barbarous six days' "wobbles."

Goatee (American), the peculiar kind of tuft of hair on the chin worn by Americans and Irish Yankees. So called from its similarity to a goat's beard. In French slang *bouc, i.e.*, he-goat.

Goater (American), dress.

Gob (popular), a provincialism, but chiefly used by slangy persons, the mouth; a "spank on the *gob*," a blow on the mouth. Saliva or mucus. *Gob* is often used for "gab" in the phrase, "gift of the *gob*." From the Gaelic *gob*, mouth.

Go back upon, to (American), a very curious phrase, equivalent to betray in an unexpected manner, but which has a certain refinement of application which is difficult to describe. In most cases it intimates that the betrayer has been a trusted friend, and that ingratitude forms a part of the description. In the

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"Breitmann Ballads" we are told of a candidate who had lost the entire vote of a small town in which he confided,

> "'Twas long ere he tid know
> Vot make dis rural fillage
> *Go pack oopon* him so."

Gobble (American), to *gobble* up or devour is a well-known English word. In the United States *gobbling* is often specially applied to the purchase of smaller or rival railroads, insurance companies, &c., by wealthier or shrewder rivals. Thus when the Pennsylvania Railroad Company failed in its effort to purchase the Northern, Central, and other roads, it was announced by the newspapers that "It can't *gobble* its competitor."

(Yale University), to seize, to lay hold of, to collar. At Cambridge, however, "to *gobble* Greek," means to speak or study that language. "You may have seen him traversing the grass-plots '*gobbling* Greek' to himself."

Gobbler (popular), a turkey-cock. In Scottish slang the bird is called a "bubbly-jock." Harman, in his "Caveat," gives *gobbler*, a duck.

Gob-stick (nautical), a horn or wooden spoon. *Vide* GOB.

Go by Walker's bus, to (common), to go on foot.

God (common). The gallery people, who sit enthroned in high Olympus, are called *gods*.

> "The Brit.," where specialities we every Christmas see,
> Turns out a feast of local fun, entitled, *King Trickee;*
> And Mrs. Lane can cater well for pittite, box, or *god*,
> A Lane without a turning in the path she's always trod.
>
> —*Fun.*

Invariably the most sympathetic and enthusiastic, and not infrequently the most intelligent portion of the audience. Formerly, in many of the important country theatres, the verdict of the gallery on the first night decided the success or failure of the season. "Up amongst the *gods*," the upper gallery, termed by the French *paradis*, or *poulailler*.

(Printers), the nine quadrats used in "jeffing" (which see) were thus called. Perhaps from the fact that the player would be invoking the *god* of fortune, &c., in his behalf.

(Eton), one of the sixth form.

> A *god* at Eton is probably in a more exalted position, and receives more reverence than will ever afterwards fall to his lot.—*Pascoe: Everyday Life in our Public Schools.*

God bless the Duke of Argyle (popular), much used by tailors. This expression is often used by a man when he rubs his back against a post or projection, for the purpose of allaying the itching sensation in the small of his back, where his fingers cannot reach. It is said that one of the Dukes of Argyle caused posts to be erected in certain parts of his domain, so

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

that all persons troubled with an itching back might relieve their sufferings. This must be taken *cum grano salis.*

Goddess (Anglo- or Malay-Indian), an absurd corruption which used to be applied by our countrymen in the old settlements in the Malay countries to the young women of the land. It is the Malay *gōdis*, a virgin.

And then how strange, at night opprest
By toils, with songs you're lulled to rest,
Of rural *goddesses* the guest.
Delightful!
—*W. Marsden: Mem.*

(Common), a female sitting in the gallery of a theatre.

Each one-shilling *god* within reach of a nod is,
And plain are the charms of each gallery *goddess.*
—*Rejected Addresses.*

Godfathers (American), jurymen. The author of the New York Slang Dictionary explains this by saying that they name the degrees of crime.

Gods (tailors), block patterns, or patterns stored and prized by those unable to produce patterns themselves.

Gods of cloth (tailors), classical tailors.

Go-easter (American), cow-boy slang. A *go*, a valise, so called because the cow-boy seldom owns such an object till he buys one to go to a city, which is generally eastwards (C. Leland Harrison).

Goff, Mrs. (American Universities), a cant phrase to denote any woman.

Go for the gloves. *Vide* GLOVES.

Goings-on (common), proceedings.

The *goings-on* of hundreds of years since are so frequently represented before our latter-day eyes, that in all probability the present generation knows more about its remote ancestors than the worthies did themselves.—*Modern Society.*

Going to pieces (sporting), demoralised, tired out.

Going to pot (popular), to go to ruin. Old metal-work, &c., when too old for use, is *sent to pot, i.e.*, melted down for other uses. This is probably the origin of the phrase.

Go into the kitchen, to (popular), to drink one's tea out of the saucer; an allusion to the vulgar method of drinking very common amongst servants.

Go it (popular), once perfectly good English, but now a slang mode of expression used as a term of encouragement, as for example in Artemus Ward's "*Go it*, my gay and festive cuss;" or, "*Go it*, you cripples, Newgate's on fire."

I met the other day our mutual friend—
aw—Henry Irving,
Linked arm-in-arm with Tennyson the poet;
And Randy walked behind, his grand moustache with pleasure curving;
Kilrain was urging all of them to *go it.*
—*Topical Times.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

To *go it*, to act with energy, spirit, fearlessly. In the quotation it is used in a disparaging sense.

The second offender, who has been *going it* with him, being a much smaller youth, is much more scared.—*The Graphic.*

Go it blind (common), a phrase meaning to act without due thought or deliberation. Edwards says: "It is derived from the game of poker, where a player may, if he chooses, *go it blind*, by doubling the 'ante' before looking at his cards, and if the other players refuse to see his 'blind' he wins the 'ante.'"

Go it, boots! go it, rags! I'll hold your bonnet! glang! (American), cries of encouragement to a man on foot or on horseback, "doing time." In England there is also the well-known "Go it, ye cripples, wooden legs are cheap!"

Goldbacked 'uns (popular), body lice.

Gold bug (American) a millionaire.

To her enduring honour be it said, the only country where *gold bugs* have not been permitted to dictate such legislation that their talent in the napkin may be hocussed in the sight of all men up to the value of two talents, is the great Republic across the Atlantic.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Goldfinches (popular), sovereigns.

Two canaries equal one *goldfinch*—who so possesseth needeth never to pine for lack of notes.—*Punch.*

Gold-finder (old), a cleaner of privies or jakes, a night-man.

A *gold-finder* or jakes farmer.—*Urquhart's Translation of Rabelais.*

Golgotha (Cambridge University), literally the place of a skull, "but," says the *Westminster Review*, "a particular part of the University Church is appropriated to the 'heads' of the houses, and is called *golgotha* therefrom, a name which the appearance of its occupants renders peculiarly fitting, independent of the pun." It also signifies a hat.

Goll (games), the hand; derived from the Keltic. Hence *golf*, hand-ball.

Gollop, to (common), to swallow greedily; a corruption of "gulp."

Golly, by golly (American), a common interjection. It is very doubtful whether it is used euphemistically for God. Nor is it strictly true, as Bartlett says, that it is chiefly to be heard among negroes, since it is quite as common among boys in New England or in the West. Formerly used in the form "by goly" in England.

Why then, *by goly*, I will tell you! I hate you, and I can't abide you.—*Fielding: An Old Man taught Wisdom.*

G.O.M. (general), *i.e.*, grand old man, a nickname of Mr. W. E. Gladstone. It was first used by Mr. Bradlaugh in a speech at Northampton. Since then it has become exceedingly popular, being used derisively by the right honourable gentleman's political opponents, and respect-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

fully, though familiarly, by those who look upon him as a leader. It is now used facetiously in reference to any one.

Each guest has p'raps already guessed
the gentleman I mean,
For all these qualities unite in but one
man, I ween:
I sing that real *G.O.M.*—the chairman
of our green—
Who here this evening may be seen pre-
siding o'er this scene.
—*St. Helen's Lantern.*

Gomers (Winchester College), an abbreviation of "go homers," the clothes college "men" wear when going home instead of gowns. In the old days "*go-mers* and hats" was a "peal" similar to "boots and leathers." *Gomer* means also a pewter dish.

Gone (American), but also used in England to signify loss, ruin, or total injury. "*Gone* up" and "*gone* down" are in this meaning synonymous. One may also hear that it or he is a "*gone* case," a "*gone* goose," a "*gone* coon," "*gone* bird," or "a *goner*." "It is all *gone*-day with him" is also a common idiom, meaning that his day or time is lost or over. A "goner" also naturally refers to anything or anybody who has escaped or died.

I knew, in the language of the States, that I was a *gone* coon.—*Moonshine.*

Gone for (theatrical), criticised, run down. Borrowed from the Americans.

The "Circassian," at the Criterion, is drawing better houses than might have been expected, seeing how the piece was *gone for* by the body critical. And in spite of its ultra-extravagance and strained fun, it makes the people laugh.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Gone off one's chump (popular), crazy.

I'm frantic—still I wander about,
I am nearly *gone off my chump*,
My wife, my wife, my cruel wife,
For me don't care a dump.
—*Song.*

Gone on (society), in love. Also "sweet on," "mashed on."

The swells who go there for their lunch
every day,
Are *gone on* the duchess—at least so they
say,
But I fancy they'd be in a very bad way,
If they knew for my dinner I've nothing
to-day. —*Song.*

Goner (popular), a dying person.

They had some conversation, which resulted in their going to the Three Arrows public-house, where he drugged him. "I gave him more than I intended, and when I saw he was a *goner*, I put him in the cab and got away."—*Daily Telegraph.*

Also a bankrupt person, or any one who has "gone wrong."

Gone to grass, dead. *Vide* GO TO GRASS.

Gone up (American), lost, ruined, bankrupt.

Goney (American), a stupid, foolish fellow.

"How the *goney* swallowed it all, didn't he," said Mr. Slick with great glee.—*Sam Slick in England.*

Gonoph or **gonnof** (popular), a young fool or lout.

I am obliged to take him into custody; he's as obstinate a young *gonoph* as I know, he won't move on.—*Dickens: Bleak House.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"Produce the infant," he gasped.

"This is it," said Spooner, the proud father.

"And s'posing I die first, d'you think I'm going to get damned for the sins of an ugly red-faced *gonoph* like that."—*Sporting Times.*

(Thieves), a thief. Hotten says an expert thief, a master of his craft. The word is very old.

Understand, if you please, I'm a travelling thief,
The *gonophs* all call me the Gipsy;
By the rattler I ride when I've taken my brief,
And I sling on my back an old kipsy.
—*The Referee.*

"To *gonoph*," to wheedle out of, to cheat. From the Hebrew *ganef.*

Vell, it appears that first of all he vhent to Cape Colony, vhere de di'mond fields is. He invested all vhat he'd *gonophed* from his poor old father in di'mond shares —every blessed shtever.—*Sporting Times.*

Gonus (American University). *Vide* GONEY.

Good (printers), an abbreviation of good-night.

Good-bye John! (American), equivalent to all is gone, lost, or over.

Goodfellow (old), a reveller.

This they said, because it was well known that Sir Roger had been a *goodfellow* in his youth.—*Ascham: Schoolmaster.*

It meant also a thief.

Good job too, and a (popular), an emphatic expression of approbation. A favourite affirmative. "And good business" is used in the same sense.

The waves began to roar and the winds began to blow,
The boiler started leaking and the engine wouldn't go,
The people felt afraid while the captain and the crew
Refused to bring 'em over *and a good job too.*
—*J. Sparks: A Good Job Too.*

Good line (tailors), cheap or saleable articles.

Goods (sporting), men or horses. Termed "good *goods*" or "bad *goods*" according to quality.

Good sort (popular), used in approbation of any one.

And then the Prince of Wales was charged with being a real *good sort*,
And every one yelled out, "Hear! hear!" till the roof went off the court.
—*Francis and Day: Six Months Hard.*

Good thing (racing), a presumed certainty in racing. When a horse on his merits publicly shown or privately ascertained is supposed to be sure of winning a race, such event is said to be a *good thing* for him. The imagining of the people more often turns out to be a vain than a *good thing.*

Good woolled (American), gifted with unflinching courage. Of late years it has become the fashion with the Western American editors to speak of their part of the country as "the wild and woolly West."

Go off on the ear, to (American), to be suddenly irritated, to fly off in a tantrum.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"What made Susie *go off on her ear* yesterday, Mildred?" asked Amy.

"Amy," replied the High school girl, "please do not say 'go off on her ear,' but 'retire on her auricular appendage.'"—*American Newspaper.*

Go off the hook, to (familiar), to die.

Goose (tailors), a name associated from time immemorial with the large iron used by tailors for pressing.

Gooseberry (common), a canard, or a hoax.

Gooseberry, doing or picking (popular), to act as chaperone or escort to young couples on occasions when otherwise their being together would not be quite the thing. The chaperone is supposed to pick your berries.

Gooseberry-pickers (common), sharp children, who are ostensibly placed in charge of their elder sisters when the latter go out shopping, but who are in reality a check on any chance of flirtation (Hotten).

Goosegog (common), a gooseberry. In some dictionaries this is erroneously claimed as a mere provincialism.

Gooser (popular), a finishing blow, one that "cooks his goose."

Goose, the (theatrical), hissing.

It is said that the hissing of a *goose* once saved the Capitol, but, as the late Mr. Planché wisely and wittily observed, "that was a capital *goose*." This, however, is the only useful sibillation on record, and it is apocryphal. In our time we have authentic evidence of a single instance of hissing leading to a result of a very different character. Macready was acting *Hamlet* at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh. Forest, the American tragedian, arose from his place in the boxes and hissed his great rival. Subsequently, during Macready's farewell engagement in America in 1849, this deplorable incident led to riots in New York, the calling out of the military, bloodshed, loss of life, and Macready's precipitate flight to England in disguise. Hissing is now abolished in the States. If an American audience dislikes a play, the auditors quietly get up and walk out. The odious custom still prevails in this country, and flourishes in full force on first nights, when our audiences devote themselves with ardour to the sprightly pastime of author-baiting.

There is a comic side to every tragedy. Here is an illustration of the comedy of hissing. A famous low comedian, "a fellow of infinite jest," recently deceased, while acting the First Witch in *Macbeth*, found himself *in Bacchi plenus*, and forgetful of his part. In the incantation scene, when he had spoken the two first lines—

"Round about the cauldron go,
In the poisoned entrails throw,"

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

his memory failed him. After an agonising pause, he resumed—

"What comes next, I cannot guess,
So mix the lot up in a mess."

The audience were furious at this ribald tampering with the text, and down came the *goose* most lustily.

"This sound of fear,
Unpleasing to the actor's ear,"

sobered the comedian instantly. Pulling himself together and looking up at the gallery with a sly wink, he proceeded—

"Funky actor, lost the word,
Goose from gallery, awful bird,
Twist his neck off like a shot,
And boil *him* in the charmed pot."

The audacity of this quick-witted response so tickled the "gods," that they not only condoned the erring comedian's backslidings, but gave him a hearty round of applause into the bargain.

(Printers), *goose*, a curtailment of the word "wayzgoose," which see. (Old cant), a particular symptom in the *lues venerea* (Wright).

He had beake some private dealings with her and then got a *goose*.—*Webster: Cure for a Cuckold.*

Goose, to (popular), *to goose* a man in the sense to make a fool of him, humbug or deceive him, may naturally enough be derived from making a *goose* of him. But it is worth noting that in Dutch slang there is a word, *genscheesder*, or geese-shearers (Teirlinck explains that to shear here means to swindle), which refers to a kind of impostors who go about the country pretending to be respectable broken-down tradesmen.

(American), to enlarge or repair boots, by a process generally known as footing, *i.e.*, by putting in or adding pieces of leather. As it is a New York word, it is probably a translation from the Dutch *gans*, a goose, which is almost identical with *gants*, whole, entire. The provincial *gantsen*, to make whole, would thus become *gansen*, to goose. Bartlett ingeniously suggests that *to goose* is derived for distinction's sake from "to fox."

(Common), *to goose*, to hiss, to "give the big bird."

The defendant, one Dallas, hired several persons *to goose* Mr. Brewster's performance. Unfortunately for Mr. Dallas, his opposition "made a fool of it," and "hissed before the blind was up." Consequently Mr. Dallas has had to pay £30 damages.—*Globe.*

Goose without gravy (nautical), a severe starting, so called because no blood follows its infliction.

Go over, to (clerical), to join the Church of Rome.

Goree (American), gold dust, gold.

Gorger (popular), a gentleman, a well-dressed man. A *gorger* or *gorgio*—the two are often confounded—is the common gypsy word for one who is not a gypsy, and very often means

with them a *rye*, a gentleman. Actors sometimes call a manager a *cully-gorger* (The English Gypsies and their Language).

(Theatrical), the manager of a theatre.

Gorgonzola Hall (Stock Exchange), the nickname for the Stock Exchange, on account of the marble walls.

Gorm, garm. Bartlett gives this as *gaum*, to smear over. It is English, but probably more frequently heard at present in the United States.

I remember that once when I was a boy the coloured footman of a friend came to the "missis" with the complaint that the young gentlemen had "gormandised" all over the front door. He meant *gormed*. —*C. G. Leland.*

Gorm, to (American university), to eat voraciously.

Gormy ruddles (popular), the intestines.

Gorry! by Gorry! (American), a common interjection or doubtful oath.

Goschens (Stock Exchange), the newly created £2¾ per cent. Government Stock.

A hideous panic seized the Stock Exchange. *Goschens* went down to 60 at a single leap.—*Punch.*

This stock was so named after Mr. Goschen, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who created the Stock in April 1888.

Gospel grinder (popular), a city missionary or Scripture reader.

Gospel shark (Canadian), a parson.

Gospel shop (popular), a Methodist chapel (O. Davis).

As soon as I had procured a lodging and work, my next inquiry was for Mr. Wesley's *gospel shops*.—*Life of J. Lackington.*

Goss (popular), a hat. From *gossamer*. (American), to "give one *goss*," to injure or kill.

Got 'em all on (popular), dressed to the height of fashion.

Gotham, Gothamites (popular). The term *Gotham* is satirically applied to the city of New York, and its inhabitants are called *Gothamites*, just as Londoners are called "Cockneys." First so called by Irving, about 1805.

I intend to present you with some phases of life and manners—such things as would strike or interest a stranger in our beloved *Gotham*, and in the places to which regular *Gothamites*—American Cockneys, so to speak—are wont to repair.—*Fraser's Magazine: Sketches of American Society.*

Got him down close and fine (American). This means that everything is known about a man. In pugilistic parlance a settling blow.

Got his leg (tailors), obtained his confidence.

Got the ball (tailors), having the advantage.

Go the gamble, to (sporting), to make a bet on some match or race.

Go the whole hog, to. *Vide* Hog.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Go the whole pile (gamesters), an Americanism naturalised in England, to put all one's money on a solitary chance.

Go through one, to (thieves), to plunder a helpless man of all valuables upon him; to strip him of all he possesses.

Go to Bath and get your head shaved. This phrase denotes mental disorder, and as the waters of Bath were formerly in good repute for the cure of mental derangements, the saying implied that the person so addressed was silly or idiotic, and should *pro bono publico* do something to get cured.

Go to college, to (old slang), to go to prison. In French cant "amis de collége," prison chums.

Go to grass (American), equivalent to saying "rubbish," "clear out," "shut up;" an expression of incredulity, or a hint to be silent or to depart. Said in New England to have been first addressed to Nebuchadnezzar.

Go to Halifax (American, but of English origin). It is a saying among sailors—

> "From hell, Hull, and Halifax,
> Good Lord deliver us."

A Tennessee manufacturer told the president of a railroad *to go to Halifax.* The president didn't go, but he refused the manufacturer any more cars, took up the switch leading to his premises, and in six months saw the man lose his business and every dollar of his money. If you want to sass a railroad man don't go higher than a train hand.—*Detroit Free Press.*

Go-to-meetings (common), Sunday clothes.

Go to smash, to (common), to fail entirely, to be ruined.

> Jay Gould and Sullivan have reached
> our shores,
> To rest, they say, a little on their oars.
> The first, the champion of the "vast
> Wabash,"
> Makes millions when his railroads *go to smash.*
>
> —*Financial News.*

Go under, to (American), a Western euphemism for death. Of Indian origin, and allusive of being put under the grass of the waving prairie, and also, it may be, sometimes of being under the knee of a conquering enemy. The idea and process of reasoning is the same as when the German uses *untergehen* to signify to perish.

Poor Hawkeye felt that his time had come, and knowing that he must *go under* sooner or later, he determined to sell his life dearly.—*Hawkeye, the Iowa Chief.*

Go upon the dub (thieves), to go upon a housebreaking expedition; to open or pick the lock or fastenings of a door. *Vide* DUB.

Gourock ham (Scotch), a salt herring. From Gourock on the Clyde, formerly a great fishing village. Termed also "Billingsgate pheasant," or "Yarmouth capon."

Government sign-post (old), the gallows.

Governor (popular), a mode of addressing an unknown person.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES INDIA

In French *bourgeois* or *patron*. (Common), my *governor*, my father.

Gowk (thieves), a countryman. Also a provincialism meaning both cuckoo and fool.

Gowler (sporting), a deep-mouthed dog; a howler. To "gowle" is a provincialism for to howl. French, *gueuler*.

Gowns (journalistic), University student.

The first at Cambridge had a good game with the 'Varsity, the *gowns* just winning by a goal to love.—*Football News*.

Grab (common), grasping. In the United States a *grab* means a robbery or "a steal."

"Papa," said the son of a saloon-keeper, "what does jumping at a conclusion mean?" "*Grabbing* the last piece of lunch on the counter," was the reply.

(Cards), a boisterous game of chance played with cards.

Grabbers (popular), the hands. "Land *grabbers*" is a phrase that has lately come into popular use in Ireland and Scotland to designate the peasants afflicted with "earth hunger," or the anti-rent masters who wish to grab or seize the land that does not belong to them.

Grabby (military), a foot-soldier. A term of contempt used by the mounted services.

Grab, to (thieves), to arrest.

Tramp it, tramp it, my jolly blowen,
Or be *grabbed* by the beaks we may.
—*W. Maginn: Vidocq's Song.*

Grace cards (Irish), the six of hearts.

Graduates (turf), horses that have already run.

The ranks of the *graduates* will be materially recruited before Lincoln comes around, but in the meantime the majority of last year's steeplechasers are on their legs.—*Referee*.

Graft (prison and popular), work; to *graft*, to work. To *graf* is a provincialism for "to dig" (*graft* being a trench). Hence the slang signification. This derivation is supported by the French *piocher*, to work hard, literally "to dig." (American), to *graft*, to surround the feet of old boots with new leather, or to add new soles.

Grampus (nautical), "blowing the *grampus*," deluging with water.

Grand hotelism (journalistic), a word expressive of living in a public manner, haunting extravagant, flaring hotels; a life of salons and mirrors.

The inferior class of the articles de Paris are Imperialism, Boulevardism, *grand hotelism*, Sebastopolism, Magentaism, Nadesherbism, adapted to the humblest perceptions and the slenderest purses.—*G. A. Sala: A Trip to Barbary*.

Grandificent (American), grand and magnificent. Also "grandaceous," "grandiferous," &c., which Bartlett characterises very correctly as factitious words. The number of these manifestly manufactured expressions is very great in the United States, but very few of them survive. It would seem as if slang to

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

live must grow naturally from needs and be developed by use.

Grandmother, to see one's (common), to have a nightmare.

Granger (American), the member of a political party formed about 1875 in the interests of the Western grain-growing States, or of the agriculturists. The word is now generally used to mean a countryman, a rustic, or "a gentleman from the rural districts."

> Now this person was a stranger
> From the West; a rural *granger*
> Sure that nobody could do him,
> And no city chap get through him.
> Nothing to him could be dearer
> Than to meet a bunko steerer.
> He was with impatience hopping
> To find a fellow wallet-dropping,
> And he pined, this pine woods jonty,
> To encounter three-card monté.
> —*How they did the Buck-Eye.*

Grape-vine telegraph (American). During the war exciting accounts of battles not fought and of victories not won were said to have been conveyed by *grape-vine* (or clothes-line) *telegraph* (New York Slang Dictionary), but the term was in earlier use, meaning news conveyed in a mysterious manner.

Grarler (American thieves), a small dog who by barking alarms the family. "*Grarlers* are more feared by burglars than guns or pistols."

Grass (common), "to go to *grass*," to die; "go to *grass*," be off, you be hanged. (Pugilistic), "to go to *grass*," to fall sprawling.

> . . . That he had further eased his mind by executing a free-hand drawing of himself as a boxer . . . engaged in having a "set-to" with M. Sterling . . . who was going to *grass* in the most ignominious manner.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

(Royal Military Academy), vegetables.

(American), fresh mint or tansy leaves, used in making juleps.

(Australian printers), temporary hands on a newspaper. The metaphor probably is from the proverb about *grass*—"The *grass* withereth," &c., which would imply temporariness. There is a printers' proverb, "A *grass* on news waits dead men's shoes." The *Australasian Printers' Keepsake* says: "Those familiar with newspaper work in the colonies must often have heard this gruesome axiom. Now this saying, though evidently figurative, does not present the usual pleasing characteristics which we associate with pastoral subjects, especially when they are contemplated from a proper distance, as becomes the eye artistic. Disagreeable as it may be to acknowledge the fact announced in the above saying, however, so much more so must it be to have it verified in one's own person, be you *grass* or prospective dead man. Why are the *grass* or casual news hands not put on a more comfortable foot-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

ing" (Edward Fitzgerald: Printers' Proverbs).

The expression has been imported from England, a *grass* hand in English printers' parlance being a compositor that accepts occasional work in different offices.

Grass-combers (nautical), countrymen who enter the service from farming counties.

Grasser (sporting), a fall.

Some have terrible *grassers* in climbing into the pigskin.—*Elyers of the Hunt.*

Grasshopper (popular), a waiter at a tea-garden (Hotten).

Grass in his liquor. See GRASS.

Grass-ville (thieves), the country.

Grass-widow. In America and in India a *grass-widow* is a married woman temporarily separated from her husband. In the Slang Dictionary of Hotten it is explained as "an unmarried mother, a deserted mistress," which is rather doubtful. Low German, *gras-wedewe.* Also *stroh-wittwer* (German).

Gravel, to (popular), to confound, to perplex, to bewilder. From levelling with the earth or *gravel.*

Gravel-crusher (military), a soldier compelled to tramp about a square at defaulter's drill.

Gravel-grinder (popular), one subject to falls through drunken habits.

Gravel-rash (popular), a scratched face, generally applied to a drunken person who has had a fall. (Schoolboys), the injury to the knees from a fall.

Grave-trap, the (theatrical), a large oblong trap in the centre of the stage, so called because "the fair Ophelia" is supposed to be buried there. Every fugitive draught in the theatre rises from the cellar through this opening. It is said that Fawcett, when stage-manager at Covent Garden, relinquished the part of the gravedigger (which he had acted a quarter of a century) in favour of a younger actor, against whom he had a spite. "You are very generous, Mr. Fawcett," gushed the youngster. "Not at all, sir—not at all," replied the veteran. Then turning to a crony, with a grin, he growled in a grim aside: "That infernal north-east wind from the *grave* will cook his goose."

Graveyard (American), a "private *graveyard,*" men who affect great ferocity, or who assume to be desperadoes, sometimes boast in America that they keep *graveyards* of their own in which to bury their victims, or else are sarcastically asked where these cemeteries are. In portions of New England every farmer has his own family *graveyard* on his property, and the writer has known an instance in which a father made a present—which was gladly accepted—to his children of a little *graveyard*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

with two blank tombstones. They kept it in order and used it as a playground.

Gravy eye (popular), a term rather loosely and unmeaningly applied as a derisive epithet—"Oh! you *gravy eye!* How much gravy does your mother put on your 'taters'?"

Gray (sharpers), from the gypsy *gry*, a horse, a halfpenny with either two "heads" or two "tails," used for cheating at pitch and toss. Also called a pony, hence the word.

Gray-coat parson, a lay impropriator, or lessee of great tithes (Hotten).

Grays (popular), lice; called by the French *grenadiers*.

Grease (printers), a synonym for well-paid work.

Grease one's duke, to (thieves), to grease the palm or hand, "duke" meaning hand.

One or two days after this I met the reeler at Hackney, and he said, "What made you guy?" So I said that I did not want my pals to see me with him. So he said it was all right. Some of the mob knew him and had *greased his duke.*—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Greaser (American), a Mexican.

A Chinaman stole swiftly and silently by; a half-breed led a lame horse along; a couple more *greasers*, seated one behind the other, went past on another equine scarecrow.—*P. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

(Winchester College), "to give him *greaser*," to rub the head hard with the knuckles. (Naval), an engineer, or any other man employed in the stoke-room.

Greasers (Royal Military Academy), fried potatoes, in contradistinction to "boilers," boiled potatoes.

Greater or final (Oxford University), the final public examination in honours. *Greater* is now properly confined to classical honours.

Great go (Cambridge University), the final and most important examination an undergraduate has to pass. An earlier examination is called the "little go."

Read through the whole five volumes folio, Latin, previous to his going up for his *great go.*—*The Etonian.*

Great pot (racing), a prophet.

I enclose a little circular sent to me in the spring of the present year, sent me by a *great pot* (he would have you believe), addressing from the Strand, London, whose selections, had I followed, would break a bank, much less a private purse.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Great Scott! (American and common), probably derived from General Winfield Scott, once a candidate for the Presidency, a man of such great dignity and military style that he was popularly known as Fuss and Feathers. To explain the following extract from an American newspaper in which the word occurs, it must be understood that the Republicans in the United States insist that all the roughs, shoulder-hitters, and gamblers

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

in the country are "Democrats." "Where are you going to-day?" asked a man of a Democratic sheriff, "and why is court adjourned?" "Why, *great Scott!*" exclaimed that official, "don't you know there is going to be a prize-fight to-day in the next county?" The phrase has been acclimatised in England by the *Sporting Times*:—

How gaily they glitter, and glisten, and glow,
As they shine in their sovereign sway,
And see how they sparkle—*Great Scott!* here's a go!

Great smoke (thieves), London.

The Cockneys, from the *great smoke*, seldom fraternised with the "hardware blokes" from Birmingham. Liverpool criminals were almost entirely of Irish origin.—*Evening News.*

Great sun! (American), a mild oath, probably only a variation of "great Scott."

But something came up—up like a fountain, up like the bubbling over of the airth's eternal teapot; a black muddy jet of stuff. *Great sun!* I think I see it now. —*The Golden Butterfly.*

Grecian bend (society), peculiar bend given to the body by means of a large bustle and high-heeled boots. The term is by no means new. It was used in the "Etonian" more than half a century back. "In person he was of the common size, with something of the *Grecian bend*, contracted doubtless from sedentary habits."

Greek. Any language, dialect, or form of speech that the common people did not understand, was either called gibberish or Greek. Thus the slang of the beggars, tramps, vagabonds, gypsies, and thieves was known to the outside multitude as St. Giles's Greek, or pedlar's Greek. In "As You Like It," when Amiens sings—

"Under the greenwood tree,
Who loves to lie with me,"

he is asked what the mysterious syllables "duc da me" signify, and gives the explanation that it is a *Greek* invocation to call fools into a circle. "Duc da me" is generally explained as Latin intentionally corrupted (or by a misprint) from *duca ad me.*

Greeks (old), highwaymen, or knights of the road. The term now is applied to sharpers; *grecs* in French (not slang). Also a name given in derision to the low Irish in London who spoke Gaelic. *Vide* GREEK.

Green (common), not wide awake, inexperienced. "Do you see any *green* in my eye?" do you take me for a simpleton?

So awfully *green*, dreadfully *green*,
The greenest of *green* that ever was seen,
He blushes and simpers—you know how I mean,
Frightfully shy, and awfully *green*.
—*Song.*

Major P——'s unco' sly,
There is *no green about his eye*,
And oh! it makes the major cry,
When bang goes a bawbee, O.
—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Greenbacks (University), one of Todhunter's mathematical text-books, because some of them are bound in green cloth. (American), paper money.

Green bag (common), a lawyer. "What's in the *green bag?*" *i.e.*, what is the charge to be preferred against me?

Green goods operators (American), the counterfeiters of greenbacks.

The article referred to also contained an *exposé* of the methods, headquarters, and gangs who have so long and with so much impunity carried on the *green goods* or sawdust *operators*. It also gave the names of sawdust operators who had been arrested and indicted in the Federal courts but never brought to trial.—*New York Mercury.*

Greenhouse (drivers), a derisive term sometimes applied to an omnibus. "Get out of the way with that old *greenhouse* of yours!"

Greenland (common). "He comes from *Greenland*," he is unsophisticated.

A new pal . . . where did he come from? *Greenland.—Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Greenman (builders), a contractor who speculates with other people's money.

Greens (printers), a term in vogue for bad or worn-out printing rollers.

Green, to (Eton School), to befool, to cause any one to show simplicity.

I was again catechised on many points personal to myself, and some mild attempts were made to *green* me, as boys call it.—*T. C. Buckland: Eton*, 1836–1841.

Green turtle, to live up to (American), to do, and give one's best—a metaphorical phrase which owes its origin to turtle being regarded from the epicure's point of view a *bonne bouche*, and the green fat the most desirable portion.

It were churlish indeed to find fault with any custom, or to dwell critically upon any shortcoming of these hospitable people, who, as hosts, *live up to their green turtle.—Paton: Down the Islands.*

Greenwich barbers (popular), retailers of sand, so called because the inhabitants of Greenwich "shave the pits" in the neighbourhood to supply London with sand (Dr. Brewer),

Greenwich goose (popular), formerly a pensioner of the Greenwich Naval Hospital.

Greeze (Westminster School), a crowd. Possibly from *grease*, alluding to the appearance of crowd of low people.

Few whose names have ever stood on that paper will forget how they pressed through the surrounding *greeze.—Everyday Life in our Public Schools.*

Gregorines (common), live stock in the hair. From the Italian.

Grid (theatrical), a contraction of gridiron—the large open woodwork structure built over the flies, extending over the whole stage, so called because it is

constructed exactly like a gridiron. To the *grid* all the dead lines which bear the scenery are attached.

Griddle, to (street), to be a street singer. Possibly from Italian *gridare*, to cry aloud.

Griddler (streets), a street singer. (Tinkers and tramps), a tinker. Probably from "gridiron."

Gridiron, the (nautical), the Stars and Stripes of the United States. Also called the "Stars and Bars." (Popular), "the whole *gridiron*," the whole party. (Common), a *gridiron*, a County Court summons. Originally a summons to the Court of Westminster only; from the Gridiron Arms. The Grafton Club is always known as the Grid or *Gridiron*, that instrument being brought into requisition whenever possible in the cuisine (Hotten).

Griffin, griff (Anglo-Indian), a greenhorn, a fresh comer, a Johnny Newcome, one not as yet "in the ways." The origin of this word is uncertain, but something resembling it is applied in different Latin languages to "outsiders," foreigners, and the excluded or mixed members of society. Thus in Louisiana a *griffin* or *griffe* is used, like the French *griffon*, for a mulatto, or one of mixed dark blood (Bartlett). "I am little better than an unfledged *griffin*, according to the fashionable phrase here" (Hugh Boyd, 1794).

(Army), formerly a young subaltern in the Indian service.

Pig-sticking is pretty, very pretty I may say, if you have two or three of the right sort with you; all the *griffins* ought to hunt together though.—*H. Kingsley: Geoffrey Hamlin.*

(Anglo-Chinese), a horse fresh from the wilds. Also a person resident in China under three years.

Griffins, the residue of a contract feast taken away by a contractor, half the buyer's and half the seller's (Dr. Brewer).

Grig, to (American), to *grig*, to irritate, goad, or vex. Probably from *grig*, a small fish-spear used for eels (*grig*, a small eel). Thus to "chivvy," to hunt about, chase, vex, or annoy, is derived from *chiv* (gypsy), a pointed knife, &c.

That word, superiorist. *grigged* me. Thinks I, my boy, I'll just take that expression, roll it up into a ball, and shy it at you.—*Sam Slick: Human Nature.*

Grind (university), a long walk. (Cambridge), the Granchester or Gogmagog Hills *Grind*. A tedious piece of academical work. A plodding student who keeps aloof from the usual sports and pastimes. The ferry-boats at Chesterton, wound across by a winch and chain, "to go over in the *grind*." (Schools), to *grind*, to work hard, to cram for an examination.

Grinder (popular), "to take a *grinder*" is to make an insulting gesture by applying the left

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

thumb to the nose, and turning the right hand round it as if in the act of grinding an organ. Also "to take a sight."

Grinders (society), private tutors. (Popular), the teeth.

This round was but short—after humouring a while,
He proceeded to serve an ejectment, in style,
Upon Georgy's front *grinders*, which damaged his smile
So completely, that bets ran a hundred to ten
That Adonis would ne'er flash his ivory again.
—*Tom Crib's Memorial to Congress.*

Grindery (shoemakers), material for making boots and shoes.

Grinding mill (students), preparing for an examination.

Grind off (common), a miller.

Grindstone (common), to keep one "with his nose to the *grindstone*," to keep him to his work.

Gringo (American), a Spanish word, common in the South-West, or at least well known, meaning a flat, new-comer, stranger, an American or a foreigner. It corresponds in some respects to the "griffin" of India and China.

When you play with a *gringo* take off that ar' green coat and silver buttons. I seen every hand you held rite in one of those buttons, like looking inter a looking-glass.—*Cleveland Sun and Voice.*

Grinning stitches (milliners), said of sewing slovenly done, where the stitches are so wide apart that they have the appearance of rows of teeth.

Gripes (popular), colic.

Gripes hole (Winchester College), a hole close to the boat-house, thus called because the water there is very cold.

Gripper (popular), a miser, a curmudgeon.

Grit (American and common), spirit, courage, pluck, endurance, determination. The word is derived from the hardness of the *grit* of grindstones, millstones, and paving-stones, and other uses to which the most durable sandstone is applied.

If he hadn't had the clear *grit* in him, and showed his teeth and claws, they'd a nullified him so you couldn't have seen a grease spot of him.—*Sam Slick in England.*

No *grit* signifies no pluck, sometimes imitated by "no sand."

Grizzle-pot (popular), a sulky child, one who is constantly "grizzling," *i.e.*, whimpering, whining.

Grizzle, to (common), to cry, whimper.

"What on earth are you *grizzling* about now?" asked the Talepitcher of Mrs. T., when she came in sobbing the other afternoon.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Groaners (thieves), funeral and church thieves.

Groats (nautical), an allowance for each man per mensem, assigned formerly to the chaplain for pay.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Grog (popular), to "have *grog* on board," to be tipsy.

Grog-blossoms (common), pimples on the face, a consequence of continual hard drinking.

Grog fight (army), a drinking party.

Groggy (common), unsteady like a drunken man, generally applied to horses when they become weak and unsteady from age and overwork.

And as the Pet, moreover, was so battered and bruised, and was altogether so *groggy* that he was barely able to stand up to be knocked down.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Grogham (popular), a sorry horse, one who is "groggy" or not firm on his legs.

Grog-tub (nautical), a brandy bottle.

Groom (gaming), a croupier.

Groovy (society), settled in one's habits, old-fogyish, limited to certain views.

After an absence of fifteen years I have just returned to England. . . . I never aspired to being a nabob, or a "chappy," or a "masher" (indeed, I am past the age when attaining to these latter distinctions could be possible); nor did I intend to dissipate my hard-earned and modest fortune as a "plunger." Six weeks ago I was not aware that these terms formed a part of the English tongue; but now . . . I make use of them, lest you should infer from what is coming that I am old-fashioned, prejudiced, or hopelessly *groovy*.—*St. James's Gazette: The Culture of the Misses.*

(American), a "sardine."

Groper (popular), a blind man, termed also "hoodman."

Ground, down to the (common), anything that is very acceptable and thorough.

Grounder (nautical), a ship that is liable to be run aground through bad seamanship.

Unfortunately these rejoicings have been marred through the loss of three "mids" belonging to the notorious *grounder, Canada*, who were capsized and drowned. —*Modern Society.*

(Cricket), a ball that is delivered along the ground, a "sneak" or "grub."

Ground hog day (American), a term very common in the Middle States, and thus explained by Bartlett:—"Candlemas, February 2, is often so called in the Middle and Western States from a popular belief that the appearance of the *ground hog* on that day predicts a return of cold weather." The *ground hog* (a kind of marmot) has even shown himself at times in poetry.

Though the *ground hog* and crocus creep
into their holes,
It's Spring, and the almanac shows it,
Though a polar wave over the universe
rolls,
It's Spring, and we don't care who
knows it.
—*Robert J. Burdette: March.*

Ground-sweat (thieves), burial.

And as soon as the noose was untied
Then at darkey we waked him in clover,
And sent him to take a *ground sweat.*
—*Burrowes: The Death of Socrates.*

Grouser (popular), a grumbler.

No matter how well the indefatigable cooks acquit themselves in trying to ap-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

pease the ravenous wants of the hungry crowd, they very often find it altogether impossible to do anything at all entirely to the satisfaction of a certain class of individuals. . . . This select and volatile body of men is commonly designated by their more sensible and forbearing comrades as the *grousers.—Brunlees Patterson: Life in the Ranks.*

Groute, to (Marlborough and Cheltenham Colleges), to work hard. Also to go out of an evening. In Yorkshire it is used with the sense of to dig up with the snout like a hog.

Grouty (American), ill-tempered, cross, vexed, "grumpy." *Grout*-headed, stupidly noisy (Sussex).

Atter sputin' an' rasslin' roun' considibul, hit wuz fix up dat Bre'r Fox, Bre'r Bar, and Bre'r Buzzard wuz ter run for de offis—an' ter sawter (sort of) pacerfy Bre'r Rabbit, who wuz powerful *grouty* 'bout bein' lef out, dey 'leck him ter hole de ballick-box.—*Detroit Free Press.*

Grove of the Evangelist (common), a name for St. John's Wood.

Growing his feathers (prison), letting one's hair and beard grow, a privilege accorded to convicts for some months before their discharge, that they may not be noticeable when free.

Growler (common), a four-wheeled cab; so called because a man is supposed to growl and be discontented in one. Compare with "sulky," a kind of gig.

The cab again drew up at the door, and the pseudo Beau Brummell set his dainty foot upon the step and gaily alighted. A four-wheeled *growler* had accompanied his own carriage.—*Tit-Bits.*

(American), "to work the *growler*," to send out a tin or a kettle to a saloon for beer. Considered rather low.

There's Misther Hons Sowfer, a fine German man,
He goes out and brings Lager in an ould lobsther can,
'Tis himsilf works the *growler* so nate and so well,
For the good of the ladies in the Bummers' Hotel.
—*American Broadside Ballad.*

Grub (popular), food. *Vide* GRUB AND BUB.

"I never see such a jolly dog as that," cried Master Bates. "Smelling the *grub* like a old lady a going to market."—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

"To *grub*," to eat. Also to beg, to solicit alms, especially food. (American universities), a *grub* is a student who works hard; to *grub*, to study hard. (Cricket), a *grub*, a ball that is delivered along the ground. Specially underhand bowling.

Grub and bub, victuals and drink. The two words are of indigenous English origin. *Grub* is derived from the action of digging up roots for edible purposes; and *bub* or "bib" from Latin *bibere*, French *biber*. "Humming *bub*" formerly signified sparkling ale, and is frequently mentioned in the convivial days of the eighteenth century. The "grubbing ken," in the language of tramps and mendicants, is the workhouse, and is sometimes used by the lower classes for an eating-house or a cook-shop.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Grubbery (popular), an eating-house. (Thieves and tramps), the workhouse.

Grubbing hall (Winchester), the hall in which college "men" take their meals. It is opposite "organ room." Each house has its *grubbing hall.*

Grubby (popular), dirty.

They looked so ugly in their sable hides,
So dark, so dingy, like a *grubby* lot
Of sooty sweeps or colliers.
—*Hood: A Black Job.*

(Thieves), food. Diminutive of "grub."

I pattered in flash like a covey knowing,
Ay, bub or *grubby*, I say.
—*W. Maginn: Vidocq's Slang Song.*

Grub-hunting (beggars), begging for food.

Grub stakes (American). When miners become so poor that they are not able to furnish the necessary tools and food with which to "go prospecting," a third party of sufficient means offers to furnish tools and provisions on condition that he is to have a certain interest in anything that may be found (Butterworth's "Zig-zag Journeys").

Grub-trap (popular), the mouth. A variant is "potato-trap."

Gruel (common), to "get one's *gruel*" is to be well beaten, or killed; to give one his *gruel*, to beat, or kill.

Your yokel friend, Mr. Softhead—I know you all, you see—he's *got his gruel*, I rather fancy.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

He refused, and harsh language ensued,
Which ended at length in a duel,
When he that was mildest in mood
Gave the truculent rascal his *gruel.*
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

(Sporting), *gruel* or *gruelling*, a beating.

Gruelled (popular), exhausted.

Wadham ran up by the side of that first Trinity yesterday, and he said that they were as well *gruelled* as so many porters before they got to the stile.—*C. Kingsley: Alton Locke.*

Grumble-guts (popular), a person who is always grumbling.

Grumbles (popular), to be "all on the *grumbles*," to be discontented, in a snarling mood.

Grumpish (common), ill-tempered, "grouty;" probably from "grum" or "grim."

If you blubber or look *grumpish*, I'll have you strapped ten times over.—*Mrs. Trollope: Michael Armstrong.*

Grundy, Mrs., to be afraid of (society), to be afraid of the world's opinion. *Mrs. Grundy* was a character in the comedy of "Speed the Plough."

They eat and drink, and sleep and nod,
And go to church on Sunday,
And many are afraid of God,
And more of *Mrs. Grundy.*
—*Old Ballad.*

They should go up the Dart and Fal
instead of up the Rhine.
And dip, spite *Mrs. Grundy's* frown, in
truly British brine,
In short, they should resolve to see their
native land right through,
Before they fly abroad to seek fresh scenes
and fevers new.
—*Truth.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Grunter (tailors), an habitual grumbler.

(Old cant), a bumbailiff, a pig.

Here's *grunter* and bleater, with tib-of-the-butt'ry,
And margery prates, all dress'd without slutt'ry.
—*R. Brome: A Jovial Crew.*

(Popular), a policeman, termed also a "pig."

Grunting cheat (old cant), a pig.

Gruts (thieves), tea.

Guddha (Anglo-Indian), an ass. "A donkey, literal and metaphorical. Hindu *gadhā*. The coincidence of the Scotch 'cuddy,' has been attributed to a loan from Hindi through the gypsies, who were the chief owners of the animal in Scotland, where it is not common. On the other hand this is ascribed to a nickname, Cuddy, for Cuthbert" (Anglo-Indian Glossary). The only word used at present by gypsies in England for a donkey, is *maila* or *myla*.

Guerilla (American thieves), a name applied by professional gamblers to fellows who "skin suckers" (cheat the ignorant), when and where they can. They do not like the regular gamblers, but try to beat them (*i.e.*, get the better of them), inform on them, and tell the suckers that they have been cheated.

Guess what (American), a game. Also applied humorously to suspicious food, such as sausages.

Baltimore has *guess what* socials, which are well attended and very popular. The refreshments probably consist of sausage hash and mince pie.

Guiders (popular), reins. This word seems to have come from the gypsies, who derived it in turn from the Slavonian or Wallachian *voidas*. An English gypsy, on being asked what he supposed *voidas* meant, suggested that it was the same as *vyders* or reins. The French for reins is *guides*.

Guinea-hen (old cant), a prostitute.

Guinea-pigs (Stock Exchange), directors of a public company. (Common), special jurymen. Also others whose fee is a guinea, such as doctors, veterinary surgeons—

"Oh, oh," cried Pat, "how my hand itches,
Thou *guinea-pig*, in boots and breeches,
To trounce thee well."
—*Combe: Dr. Syntax.*

(Anglo-Indian), a nickname given to midshipmen on board Indiamen in the last century, and still occasionally used.

Guire cove (old cant), a rogue. Probably a corruption of queer cove.

Guiver (theatrical), flattery, artfulness.

Gulf (Cambridge), those to whom the degree was allowed, although inferior to junior optimes, but superior to poll men. Such were formerly disqualified for the classical tripos.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Gulf spin (American cadet), a man who is without principle of any kind, a worthless fellow.

Gull (common), one who is easily cheated.

> The most notorious geck and *gull*
> That e'er invention played on.
> —*Shakspeare: Twelfth Night.*

Hotten derives it from "the easy manner in which the bird of that name is deceived." In French slang a "gullible" man is *pingouin*, a bird more easily deceived than the *gull*. In Dutch, *gull* means soft, good-natured, easy to impose on. "Hy is al te *gull*," he is far too yielding. From *gul*, soft. "De weg is *gul*," the road is soft and yielding. To *gull*, to cheat, deceive.

Gull-sharper (nautical), one who preys upon simple or inexperienced people or "gulls."

Gully hole (costers), the throat, or gullet; termed also "red lane," "gutter lane." (Gypsy), *gullo*, the throat.

Gully-raker (up-country Australian), a cattle-whip. The metaphor is doubtless that of a man walking down the centre of a gully, and commanding both sides of it with his lash, like a man "covering" the whole net at lawn tennis when he stands close up to volley.

> As the day wore on they overtook bullock-drays lurching along heavily in the ruts of the road, the little keg of water at the tail-board swinging as if it would wrench out the staple it hung by, and the driver appealing occasionally to some bullock or other by name, following up his admonition by a sweeping cut of his *gully-raker*, and a report like a musket-shot.—*A. C. Grant: Bush-Life in Queensland.*

Gulph or **gulf, to** (university), to disqualify. *Vide* GULF.

> But I'm not going to let them *gulph* me a second time; though, they ought not to plough a man who's been at Harrow.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Gulsh (provincial), "hold your *gulsh*," be quiet, hold your tongue.

Gum (University and American), a trick, deception. "He was speaking of the 'moon hoax' which *gummed* so many learned philosophers." Also "gummation." The author of "A Tour through College" says: "Our reception to college ground was by no means the most hospitable, considering our unacquaintance with the manners of the place, for, as poor 'Fresh,' we soon found ourselves subject to all manner of sly tricks and 'gummations' from our predecessors the sophs."

(Common), abusive language, chatter.

> There's no occasion to bows out so much unnecessary *gum* . . . you had much better clap a stopper on your tongue. —*Smollett: Peregrine Pickle.*

To *gum*, to humbug or deceive.

Gum-gum (Anglo-Indian), a kind of small drum or gong. "We had supposed this word to be an invention of the late Charles Dickens, but it seems to be a

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

real Indian or Anglo-Indian word" (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

Gummagy (common), to be *gummagy*, to be of a snarling, scolding disposition. Dickens has the character of Mrs. Gummage in one of his works, the name of whom he evidently coined from this slang expression in the same way that he gave the surname of "Twist," *i.e.*, large appetite, to Oliver.

Gummer (popular), explained by quotation.

I was given to understand that the first practice a fighting pup had was with a good old *gummer*—that is to say, with a dog which had been a good one in his day, but now was old and toothless.—*J. Greenwood: Low-Life Deeps.*

Gummie (popular), a simpleton, a dull-headed fellow.

Gummy (popular), a person who has lost all his teeth and has nothing but gums to "flash," *i.e.*, to show. (University), to feel *gummy*, to be in a perspiration. (Thieves), *gummy*, medicine.

Gump (American), a stupid person. "You great *gump*."

Gumption (common), capacity, comprehension, intelligence; *rumgumption*, great intelligence or capacity. *Gaum* is a Yorkshire word for comprehension or understanding. *Gumption* is a recognised word in Lowland Scotch, and not considered to be slang.

Gumptious (common), conceited.

There's gumption and *gumptious!* Gumption is knowing; but when I say that sum un is *gumptious*, I mean . . . sum un who does not think small beer of hisself.—*Lytton: My Novel.*

Gum-smasher (popular), a dentist.

They were *fiances*, and proposed to celebrate the occurrence by having a few of her less showy molars uprooted at his expense. When the *gum-smasher* had got to work he found it was rather a tougher job than he had anticipated.—*Sporting Times.*

Gumsucker (Australian popular), a young Australian "native" (white), so called, it is said, from their habit of eating the gum of the wattle tree, an acacia gum very much resembling, in its astringent qualities and its general appearance, the gum arabic of commerce.

Our colonial lads showed their right to the appellation of *gumsucker* by chewing the transparent lumps that depended from the silver-wattles, one of the prettiest of our indigenous acacias.—*T. L. Work: "An Expedition to Hall's Gap," in the "Australian Printer's Keepsake."*

Gumsuck, to (American), to humbug or deceive.

Gum-tickler (common), a dentist.

Gum-tree (nautical), "he has seen his last *gum-tree*," it is all up with him.

Gun (popular), a thief, an abbreviation of "gonoph," which see.

And this here artful dodger was
A very artful *gun*,
He sneaked the heart of Rachel and
Once more poor Roger's done.
—*T. Browne: False Rachel.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(American), to *gun*, to make a violent effort, to try hard to produce an effect. "'Gunning a stock,'" says Bartlett, "is to use every art to produce a 'break,' when it is known that a certain house is heavily supplied, and would be unable to resist an attack." As it is a New York word, it may possibly be allied to the Dutch *gono*, which means a violent push, or attack. As the word implies secretly obtaining information, or finding out, it may also be derived from the old English *gun*, which has the same meaning.

Gunned (American detective), examined.

Gunner (army), an artillery officer.

A well-known *gunner*, Lieut.-Col. ——, has left England for India to take up a command.—*The World.*

Gunny, gunny-bag (Anglo-Indian), a sack, sacking. In English gypsy *gono* or *gunnio* is also a bag of any kind. In Italian *gonna* is a petticoat.

Gunster (turf). *Vide* To GUN.

Gup (Anglo-Indian), the common word among Europeans in India for prattle, gossip, or tittle-tattle.

The native ladies sit on their cushions from day to day, with no other amusement than hearing the *gup-gup*, or gossip of the place.—*Mrs. Sherwood's Autobiography.*

Gurry (American fishermen), decomposed spoiled crude oil, made from the livers of cod or other fish (Bartlett). Rancid oil. In Dutch, *goor* means spoiled, as *goor melk*, spoiled or turned milk. The oil is used for coarse work, lubricating wheels, and by tanners.

Gurtsey (American cadet), a stout, short man, a "fatty." The epithet is generally applied at West Point to the fattest man in a class.

Gush (common), exaggerated show of sentiment, or manifestation of approval.

The Endacott perjury has ended, and very properly, in a verdict of acquittal. The charge ought never to have been made, and would not have been but for that absurd quality of *gush* which is inherent in the English nation. It is this ever-present *gush* which blinds so many people to common-sense.—*Sporting Times.*

Gusher (common), one overflowing with sentiment, with exaggerated manifestations of approval, a rhapsodiser.

She was a gushing school-girl, with the idea of matrimony as the *ne plus ultra* of poetic bliss. . . .

"When your husband comes home from his toil," she asked, "does he not woo you to rest with honeyed words?"

"Well, I don t know about honeyed words; last night all he could say was, 'M'ria, it you can't untie the knots in these laces I shall go to bed in my boots, same as I did last Saturday.'"

That *gusher's* matrimonial enthusiasm is quenched.—*Sporting Times.*

Gushing (common). According to feminine interpretation, the word *gushing* answers to the French phrase, "trop expansif," and is more often used in a

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

repellent than in a laudatory sense, being habitually applied to overstrained professors of attachment, or exaggerated manifestations of approval.

Gut, to (schools), to eat more than is good for one.

Guts (old), to "have *guts* in the brain," to have sense.

> Quoth Ralpho, truly that is no
> Hard matter for a man to do
> That has but any *guts* in's brain.
> —*Hudibras.*

(Artists), "no *guts* in it." The expression is pretty general, but it is more specially used by artists to announce their opinion that there is nothing in a picture.

Gutter (Winchester College), a purl into the water made by the violent contact of a bather's body with the water when he falls on his stomach. French schoolboys call this "piquer un plat-ventre." (Binders), the white space between the pages of a book. (Common), to "lap the *gutter*," to be in the last stage of intoxication.

Gutter-chaunter (common), a street singer.

Gutter lane (popular), the urinal.

Gutter-prowler (thieves), a street thief.

Gutter-slush or **snipe** (popular), a vagabond child who prowls in the streets, sent out by his parents to beg, if he have any, or begging on his own account if he have none.

Guttle-shop (Rugby), a pastry-cook's or tuck shop.

> We can hardly bring our pen to write this word "pastrycook" as a substitute for the long-established and well-known, though perhaps inelegant, name by which we knew such places—*guttle-shops.*—*Recollections of Rugby.*

Guy (thieves). *Vide* DO A GUY.

> Still it is the constant burden of their thoughts—"How to *do a guy!*" A *guy* means to escape. The primal difficulty is the want of clothes.—*Evening News.*

From Dutch sailor-slang, in which *gy* seems to indicate speed as of the wind. "*Gy*-wind," an arid dry wind. Or a corruption of *go.*

Guy, to (theatrical), to condemn a new play or an actor, literally to ridicule as one would a *guy.*

> Lo! "brilliant" stalls and solid pit
> In judgment on a new play sit.
> Some *guy* the poor playmaker's facts
> Between the acts—between the acts.
> —*Fun.*

(Common), to distort, literally to disguise as a *guy.* (General), a *guy*, an ill-dressed person, a person of queer dress or looks. From the effigy of Guy Fawkes, carried about by street boys on 5th of November.

Gyger or **jigger** (thieves), a door. Grose has *gigger*, a latch or door; "dub the *gigger*," open the door; "*gigger* dubber," the turnkey of a prison. A door, being for a thief an obstacle to be overcome, must be connected in his mind with the divers noises it creates when forced open, *i.e.*, the creaking of the hinges,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

clatter of bolts, grinding of keys in the lock. Hence the probable origin of *gigger* or *jigger*, from the provincialism to "gig," to make a noise. French rogues call a door or gate *une lourde*, a prison door being for them a *heavy* obstacle. For other derivation, *vide* JIGGER.

Gym-khana (Anglo-Indian), a club or casino, including a skating-rink, lawn-tennis ground, and other amusements. It was, according to the Anglo-Indian Glossary, unknown twenty-five years ago. The word was invented in the Bombay Presidency, and was probably based upon *gend-khana*, "ball-house," the name usually given in Hindu to an English racket-court. It is also a colonial term signifying a race-meeting got up by the military for gentlemen riders.

Gymcad (Royal Military Academy), a gymnasium instructor.

Gyp (Cambridge), a college servant.

At Cambridge *gyp*, at Oxford "scout,"
Collegians call the idle tout,
Who brushes clothes, on errands runs,
Absorbs their tips and keeps off duns.
—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

Said to be derived from γρύψ, a vulture. A more probable derivation is from *gypsy*, which has given *gip*, a thief.

Gyro-twistive (American), full of evasions and tricks.

Now Twine was a *gyro-twistive* cuss as ever you did know,
And mit some of his circumswindles he fix de matter so.
—*The Breitmann Ballads.*

H

HĀBBEN, hobben (gypsy), food, meal. "Párraco mi-dúvel for a kūshto hābben!" thank my Lord for a good meal!

Hackamore (American, Western), a head-stall for a horse. "She went with only a *hackamore* to bring back a couple of ponies that were straying."

Squito shot off at a tangent on the broncho she was riding, with only a *hackamore* or head-stall, to bring back a couple of ponies that were straying from the bunch.
—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Hackle (popular), pluck; "to show *hackle*," to be willing to fight. "Hackles" are the long feathers on the back of a cock's neck which he erects when angry (Hotten).

Had, can't be (London slang), not to be taken in.

While rambling once not far from here, I observed on turning round
A man stoop and pretend to pick up something from the ground;
He comes to me and then says he, "Will you buy this gold ring?"
Said I, "My lad, I *can't be had*—I see it's no such thing."
—*Song: That's a Game best left Alone.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Haddock (popular), a purse. The term probably belonged originally to fish-hawkers.

Haddocks (Stock Exchange), Great North of Scotland Ordinary Stock.

Had it, or **him, on toast,** did him thoroughly, completely finished him. (Popular), all served up, all ready, prepared.

I loved her, that was clear,
And oh, *she had me on toast*, she had,
For I bought her a diamond ring,
Then the very next day she bolted away
With Charley the masher king.
—*Ballad by T. F. Robson.*

Hag (Winchester College), an ungracious epithet applied to a matron.

Haggler (costermongers). The *haggler* is to the fruit and vegetable markets what the "Bummaree" is to the fish market—a jobber and speculator.

Hair (common), "keep your *hair* on," do not be excited, keep your temper; varied to "keep your shirt on."

With the most perfect good temper the new-comer answered the expostulations of the fat woman with a "Keep yer *hair* on, Lizer."—*Sporting Times.*

"To take a *hair* of the dog that bit you," to take a dram in the morning after a too free indulgence in liquor on the previous evening.

But be sure, over night if the dog do you bite,
You take it henceforth for a warning,
Soon as out of your bed, to settle your head,
Take a *hair* of his tail in the morning.
—*Hilton: Catch that Catch Can.*

It is sometimes applied to other homœopathic proceedings (O. Davies).

Holding with most of our poets a vague notion that her woes were to be cured by a "*hair* of the dog who bit her," viz., by homœopathic doses.—*Kingsley: Two Years Ago.*

The saying, which has become a recognised phrase, probably originated in a belief that a dog bite could be cured by an application of the animal's *hair* to the wound, or it may be a version of the saying, "Similia similibus curantur." The French have the common phrase, "reprendre du poil de la bête."

Hair-pin (American), a man. This odd expression became popular about 1880. It is derived from a fancied resemblance of the human figure to a double-tined hair-pin, just as in Shakspeare's time a thin man was compared to a forked radish. In America the simile is popularly extended to clothes-pegs and tongs. It is heard most frequently in the form, "That's the kind of *hair-pin* I am."

Aye, that is just the *hair-pin*
I am, and that's my line;
And here is twenty dollars
I've brought to pay my fine.
. . . . . .
'Tis glorious when heroes
Go in to right their wrongs;
But if you're only *hair-pins*,
Oh, then, beware of tongs!
—*Carey of Carson: A Ballad.*

Half an eye (nautical), "seeing with *half an eye*," discerning easily.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Half-a-surprise (London slang), a black eye. From a music-hall song.

Half-baked, soft-baked (provincialism), lacking in intelligence. The French equivalent for this is, "Il n'a pas la tête bien cuite."

He treated his cousin as a sort of harmless lunatic, and as they say in Devon, *half-baked.—C. Kingsley: Westward Ho.*

Half-bord (old cant), a sixpence.

Half-fly flats (thieves' slang), roughs ready to be hired to do the dirty work of thieves.

Half-grown shad (American), stupid fellow. As the Germans say, "Nicht mehr Verstand als ein Rekrut im Mutterleibe," no more intelligence than an unborn recruit.

No more interlect than a *half-grown shad.—Neal: Charcoal Sketches.*

He said it with a simple tone and gave a simple smile,
You never saw a *half-grown shad* one-half so void of guile.
—The Green Old Man.

Half-man (nautical), a landsman or boy in a coaster not deserving the pay of a "full man."

Half-marrows (nautical), incompetent seamen.

Half-moon (old cant), a periwig.

Half-mourning (common), "to have one's eye in *half-mourning*," to have a black eye. Latterly termed "half a surprise," from a music hall song, "Oh! what a surprise."

Half-past kissing time, it's (popular), an impudent answer often made by a man or boy to a girl who asks him what o'clock it is.

It's half-past kissing time, and time to kiss again,
For time is always on the move, and will still remain;
No matter what the hour is, you may rely on this,
It's always *half-past kissing time,* and time again to kiss!
—G. Anthony: Ballad.

Such phrases as the above are generally snatches of popular songs, or are often embodied in them.

Half rocked (popular), half-witted, silly.

Half seas over (common), half or indeed wholly drunk. Common at first among sailors, it has now spread to all classes of the community.

The Licensed Victuallers have presented a second life-boat to the R.N.L.I. Of course she will be manned by a cork's-crew, who, though they may be sometimes *half seas over,* we trust may never be whole seas under. The L. V.'s, not believing in water themselves, do their level best—their spirit level best—to save others from it.—*Fun.*

Half 'un (common), an abbreviation for half a glass of whisky and water.

North of the Tweed you get a "sma' 'un," but there is not about this the delicate suggestiveness of a *half 'un.* When Drew, and Romano, and Charlie Moore, not to mention the Gallery and the Rainbow, start good little whiskies at twopence a time, there will be great times in Fleet Street and the Strand.—*Sporting Times.*

Hall (University), a general term for the common dinner served

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

in the college halls at a university. Hence the verb "to *hall.*"

Ha-loy (pidgin Cantonese), come down! "*Ha-loy*, you fella' topside dat go-down *ha-loy!* hab got one piecee talkee fo' you ear-hear."

Halves (Winchester College), half Wellington boots. They are *non licet.*

Ham (American), a loafer.

Ham-cases (thieves), trousers; called also "hams."

Hamlet (American), a captain of police.

Hammer (common), an enormous falsehood, synonymous with "clincher," and "crammer." In Scottish parlance, according to Robert Burns, sometimes called a "rousing whid," or in the London vernacular a "whopper," a "rapper," a "good 'un," in contradistinction to a petty falsehood, called by ladies and children a "taradiddle."

Hammer-headed (common), stupid, dull, obtuse. Possibly derived from the common yiddish slang, *hammär*, an ass.

Hammering (printers). This is a slang expression used by compositors to indicate overcharging time work—to charge more "hours" than actually engaged on a particular job or work and thus cheating.

Hammersmith (popular), "he has been at *Hammersmith*," he has received a terrific thrashing.

Hammer, to (Stock Exchange), to declare one a defaulter.

> But when the members fail,
> Why, then the dealers quail,
> For it sets the *hammer* working up and down.
> —*Atkin: House Scraps.*

To beat, ill-treat.

> A fellow as ever broke bread,
> As fly as a cop, he could *hammer* a slop.
> —*Sporting Times.*

Hampstead Heath sailor (popular), a term of ridicule—no sailor at all. What the French call "marin d'eau douce," or "amiral suisse."

Hams shrunk (tailors), sides of trousers shrunk at thigh.

Hand-em-down (provincial), a Northamptonshire term for a second-hand garment. Corresponds to the French "décrochez-moi ça."

Handicap, to (common). This term, as used in racing, is a recognised word. It is also used in a metaphoric sense to signify to make even, to equalise the chances.

Handle (common), a person with a title is said to have a *handle* to his name. This is a very common and now recognised phrase.

Hand-me-down place (tailors), a repairing tailor's, now often styled a "never-too-late-to-mend shop."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

The cut of his coat makes me weary! Regular *hand-me-downs*, and no mistake—ugh—how can he expect the world to swallow that necktie?—*Detroit Free Press.*

Hand out (American), an expression fully explained in the following extract from "The Western Avernus, or Toil and Travel in Further North America," by Morley Roberts—a work which should be read by every one before attempting to "rough it" in the "West":—"Up to this time they had always given us our meals in the tents with knives and forks and plates (separately), but here the cooks brought out a huge can of soup, some potatoes, great lumps of boiled beef, a pile of plates, and a bucket of knives and forks. A chorus of growls rose up from us on all sides. . . . Some of the boys said it was a regular *hand out*, and that we looked like a crowd of old bummers. Bummers is the American for beggars, and a *hand out* is a portion of food handed out to a bummer or a tramp at the door when he is not asked inside."

Handsaw (popular), a street hawker of knives and razors.

Handseller (popular), a street or open-air vendor.

Handsome, Americanism for grand or beautiful. "The Falls of Niagara are one of the *handsomest* things in the United States." "Yes! indeed, they are very *elegant.*" A similar abuse of the adjective is to be found in such vulgar phrases as "The cheese is *magnificent*," "The butter was *splendid*," "The eggs were *first-rate*," "The whole thing was *marvellous*," "The liquor was *glorious*," "The bread was *beautiful*," or "What a *grand old* time we had of it."

Handsome as a last year's corpse (American), a sarcastic compliment (C. Leland Harrison: MS. Americanisms).

Handsomely (nautical), gently.

Handsomely over the bricks (nautical), go cautiously, have a care.

Handsprings (popular), to chuck *handsprings*, to throw somersaults.

Hang (common), "not to care a *hang*," synonymous with "not to care a fig." *Hang*, or "*hang* it!" denotes that the speaker does not care, is vexed, or disappointed.

And there lay the rider we thought couldn't fail;
Ah! Captain Lee Barber! we're broke and want bail:
The Frenchmen are beaten 'tis true; but, oh, *hang!*
We hadn't a bob on that beast Parasang.
—*Sporting Times.*

Hangers (popular), gloves, generally well worn, carried in the hand, but never put on.

Hang-it-out, to (printers), to "skulk" on a job—not to do justice when on time work.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Hang it up, to (American), to charge to one's account, to put down to credit, to chalk it behind the door. Also English, *hang it up*, slate it.

Hang of a thing, to get or have the (English and American), to become familiar with, to learn the art, manner, or way of managing or using anything. "I am bad at my lessons just now," said a new pupil apologetically, "but I expect to do well as soon as *I've got the hang* of the school-house." Bartlett derives this, very ingeniously, from the adjusting of tools to their handles, which is known as hanging; but hanging in the sense of dependence, relationship, and adjustment, seems to be common in the Indo-European languages, if not in all others.

Though they ain't *got the 'ang* of it, Charlie, the toffs ain't,—no go and no spice!

Why, I'd back Barney Crump at our sing-song to lick 'em two times out o' twice. —*Punch.*

Hang-off (printers), an expression used to convey a rejection or avoidance of anything objectionable. To "keep off" or "fight shy" of anything.

Hang out (University), a feasting, an entertainment.

I remember the date from the Fourth of July occurring just afterwards, which I celebrated by a *hang out.—Bristed: Five Years.*

Used as a verb, it signifies to treat, to have or possess, also to dwell; "from the ancient custom," says Hotten, "of hanging out signs."

"I say, old boy, where do you *hang out?*" Mr. Pickwick replied that he was at present suspended at the George and Vulture.—*Dickens: Pickwick Papers.*

"Ce bon Edouard" used to *hang out*—and hang up—in a cold and barn-like *atelier* in the Rue d'Amsterdam.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Hang, to (popular and sporting), to be in a desperate state. Said when a man cannot turn one way or the other. Dutch, "tusschen *hangen* en wurgen," to be between hanging and strangling. (American), "it all *hangs* on him," it all depends on him. In Dutch, "De zaak *hangt* aan hem."

Hang up a bill, to (politicians), explained by quotation.

To *hang up a bill* is to pass through one or more of its stages, and then to lay it aside, and defer its further consideration for a more or less indefinite period.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

Hang up his hat (common), to make one's self permanently at home, to board and lodge in a house.

I said, "Mrs. Jones, may I *hang up my hat?*"
She replied, "Mr. Sponge, I don't know about that."
—*Comic Song.*

Hang up one's fiddle, to (American), to give up business, to resign, to desist, to retire from public into private life.

When a man loses his temper, and ain't cool, he might as well *hang up his fiddle.* —*Sam Slick.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

If a man at forty-two is not in a fair way to get a fair share of the world's spoils, he might as well *hang up his fiddle.—Don's Sermons.*

(Common), "to *hang up one's fiddle* anywhere," to adapt one's self to circumstances.

Hang up, to (thieves), to rob with violence. American thieves use the expression "hold up." Probably from hoisting a man on one's back, by means of a rope round his neck, while an accomplice robs him. French thieves call this mode of robbery "la faire au père François."

Hánk (gypsy), a well.

Hankin (trade), trickery. To make common work appear to be the best quality.

Hanky-panky, adroit substitution, palming, sleight-of-hand in legerdemain. The gypsies use *huckeny* and *hunky* to signify deceit. In Hindustani, the parent of gypsy, *hoggu*, pronounced *hocku* or *honku*, with the suffix *bazee* (a box), means legerdemain. In gypsy, *huckeny pokee*, or *ponkee*, means the adroit substitution by sleight-of-hand of a bundle containing lead or stones for another containing money or valuables.

Hanky-panky and hocus-pocus are each one half almost pure Hindustani.—*The English Gypsies and their Language.*

Hanky-panky bloke or pile o' mags (theatrical), a conjuror.

Hanky-spanky (popular), dashing, in dashing style; refers specially to garments.

Hansom (coster), a chop.

Hant, haunt (American), a ghost. It is possibly the Malay word *hant*, an evil spirit.

"It must be Beck's *haunt*," suggested one. "Sure as I'm born," said the preacher, "it does look like a ghost."—*—Atalanta Constitution: Georgia Ghost Stories.*

But dem unz *hants*. Witches is dere yer kinder fokes wat kim drap dere body and change inter a cat en a wolf.—*Uncle Remus.*

Han-tun (pidgin), one hundred.

Hap-harlot, a jocose term for a woman's under-garments. *Wrap-rascal* is a similarly facetious term for a man's overcoat. *Hap-harlot* has been modified or corrupted into *hap-parlet.*

Ha'porth o' coppers (legal), Habeas Corpus.

Happen on it, to (American), to meet with anything by chance or accidentally. This phrase, like "to happen in," *i.e.*, "to happen to call in," "to drop in on by accident," is evidently derived from the regular verb "to happen," but it is worth noting that in Dutch *happen* means to snatch, or snap.

Yer oughter hev *happened through* here with that instrumint of yourn about that time, young feller; yer might hev kept as full as a tick, till they war busted.—*Thomas Stevens: Around the World on a Bicycle.*

Hāpper, hápper (gypsy), to carry away. *Hoppercore*, a policeman (one who carries away).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Happy returns (Australian popular), throwing up one's food. If a person feels sick, feels his "dinner in his mouth," as English people say, he will say that "he has the *happy returns.*"

Hard (roughs and thieves), for *hard* labour.

. . . And then do his month's *hard* on his head.—*Sporting Times.*

(American rhyming slang), *hard* coal, silver and gold, hardware, false coin, hard metal.

Hard bargain (nautical), a lazy fellow, a skulker.

Hard case (American), a very common old-fashioned expression for a worthless, shameless man, or any one from whom nothing good can be expected. One may sometimes see in "stores" lists of *hard cases* hung up, *i.e.*, of defaulting debtors.

A petrified body has been discovered in Ohio. It is not the first *hard case* that has come to light in that commonwealth. —*Detroit Free Press.*

(Nautical), a bullying, cruel officer.

Hard cheese (Royal Military Academy), varied sometimes to "what cheese!" or "fromage." *Vide* CHEESE.

Hardening market (commercial). The market is said to harden from the purchaser's point of view when prices advance. Also used when one's chances of success are decreasing.

Take it all together, his life was becoming a mockery and a misery. The matrimonial market was *hardening* against him.—*Moonshine.*

I.e., the possibility of marriage was decreasing.

Hard horse (nautical), a tyrannical officer.

Hard lines (common), ill luck, hardship.

'*Ard lines*, ain't it, Charlie, old hoyster?
A barney's a barney, dear boy,
And you know that a squeeze and a skylark is wot I did always enjoy,
A street-rush is somethink splendacious to fellers of sperrit like me,
But dints and diakkylum plaster will spile the best sport, don'tcher see.
—*Punch.*

Hard-mouthed un' (popular), an obstinate person, or one difficult to deal with.

Hard neck (tailors), a great amount of cheek and impudence.

Hard or soft drinks (American). In the United States any liquor which is decidedly intoxicating is called *hard*, while soda-water, lemonade, root-beer, ginger-beer, and the like, are *soft*. Likewise the French call these respectively *raide*, and *doux*.

Hard row to hoe (American), a very common phrase to express a hard task.

Captain Ben sighed. I thought ma'be you was having a *hard row to hoe*, and I thought like enough.—*Frances Lee Pratt: Captain Ben's Choice.*

Hard-shell (American), thoroughly orthodox, unyielding, "hide-bound," or conservative in reli-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

gion or politics. The first persons known by this name were the old-fashioned Baptists in Georgia, who regarded all reforms as new-fangled fancies, so that they even disapproved of temperance. It is said that once when there was to be a great religious revival, a member rose and said:—"I hev to complain of Brother Smith. He is a rich man, he is worth six or seven thousand dollars, and yet he has only contributed one gallon of whisky towards this revival. Now I'm a pore man, but, to uphold the cause of Christ, I hev given a whole bar'l of sperits, for when it comes to sustaining religion I'll jest do my level best." The name *hard-shell*, or "hards," was given to a division in the Democratic party in 1848. Both in religion and in politics the opponents of these "orthodox" parties were called "soft-shells."

A number of swimming-bath proprietors have been fined in the United States for opening their establishments on Sunday mornings. The prosecutors were certain religious (?) lunatics who resuscitated a quaint old law against bathing on the Sabbath. Genuine *hard-shell* fanatics, who are mad on the subject of religion, are usually dirty in their habits, and strangely ignore the text, "Cleanliness is next to godliness."—*Fun.*

Hard stuff (up-country Australian), intoxicating liquors. The bushman has a great contempt for non-alcoholic liquors. Intoxicating liquors he calls *hard stuff*, as the only thing not too "soft" for men.

He knows every one and every one knows him by his Christian name. Each time drinks are called for he is included. He cannot drink *hard stuff*, however, always. His business would suffer. He has a private bottle filled with tea, from which he fills his glass after receiving payment.—*A. C. Grant.*

Hard tack (nautical), ship biscuits.

At that particular moment I should have preferred some coffee and *hard tack* to a lecture.—*O'Reilly: Fifty Years on the Trail.*

(Popular), coarse or insufficient food. *Vide* TACK.

Hard up (common), wanting for anything, short of money, poor, varied to "*hard up* for cash."

He ought, or nothing else may be,
Such is sweet woman's whim—
A "J," a knave, or e'en *hard up*,
She's still "soft down" on him.
To make a conquest where he will,
A gallant "gay young spark"
Two attributes need but possess:
He must be "tall and dark!"
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

"Sorry to say, Brown owes money to me! Is he *hard up?*" "Very."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

(Popular), a man who picks up cigar ends in the street.

Hard-upness (common), a state of impoverishment.

But in either district there were frequent failures, arising from inexperience of the parties concerned, or collapses from death or *hard-upness.*—*Hindley: Life and Adventures of a Cheap Jack.*

Hardware blokes (thieves), men of Birmingham.

Hare it (American thieves), return, come back.

Harlequin (theatrical), a sovereign.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Harman beck (old cant), a constable. It has been suggested that *harman beck* is, literally, one who beckons, orders you off to the stocks. *Vide* BEAK.

"It is very probable that this word was derived from the name of the celebrated magistrate Harman, who was as well known to all the thieves of England during the reign of Elizabeth, as was George Borrow to the gypsies in that of Victoria" (Charles G. Leland: MS. Notes of Gypsy Lore).

Harmans, hartmans (old cant), the stocks.

The Bube and Ruffian cly the Harman beck and *harmans.*—*Thomas Dekker: Lanthorne and Candle Light.*

From *harre*, the back upright timber of a gate, synonymous with stock or post; and same suffix used in other cant words, such as "lightmans," day; "darkmans," night; "ruffmans," hedges, bushes, woods; "togman," coat.

Hāro, haúro, hālono (gypsy), copper; *hórra*, a copper, *i.e.*, a penny.

Harper, an Irish shilling which bore the figure of a harp, and was only worth ninepence (Wright). "Harp" is a call at pitch-and-toss, also "music."

Harrower (theatrical), a term of derision used to describe a pathetic and powerful artiste, male or female, who is accustomed to *harrow* the feelings of the audience.

Harry (common), to play old *Harry* with one, is synonymous with to play the devil, to annoy or ruin one. Old *Harry* is, of course, the "old gentleman," the devil. It has been suggested that *Harry* is the word *hairy;* but it is possible that it comes from to *harry*, to torment, to tear in pieces, so that Old *Harry* would literally mean the old tormentor, the "arch tormentor," "old scratch." Again, it may simply be the diminutive of Henry, old "Nick" or Nicholas being another name for the devil. Sailors often swear "by the Lord *Harry*."

Harry Bluff (rhyming slang), snuff.

Harry! Harry! (provincial), a derisive expletive addressed by workmen to their mates when the latter are overladen.

Harry Soph. This is given as a recognised term by Webster, with the definition of a university student at Cambridge who, having sufficient standing to take the degree of B.A., declares himself a candidate for a degree in law or physic. From *ἐρίσοφος.*

Hash (common), to make a *hash* of it, to jumble together, to spoil; to settle his *hash*, to kill him.

(American cadets), a term given to the clandestine preparation of supper in the rooms, subsequent to the extinction of lights, and contrary to rule.

Ah! there was a dream of revelry then,
As over the *hash* these jovial men

Did stand to inhale the savoury smell,
And all went smooth as a marriage bell.
—*The West Point Scrap Book.*

Haslar hags (nautical), the nurses of the naval hospital, Haslar, near Gosport.

Hatches (nautical), under *hatches*, safely stowed away, dead and buried, in distress, trouble, or debt.

Hatchet (tailors), a name vulgarly applied to a plain or ugly woman. (Nautical), "to sling the *hatchet*," to sulk; the reverse of to bury the *hatchet* or tomahawk, a practice of Red Indians in time of peace.

Hatchet, to throw or sling the (common), to tell lies, to "draw the long bow."

Hatch, match, and dispatch column (American, and journalistic), a vulgar epithet to describe the births, marriages, and deaths announcements in the press. An equivalent is the cradle, altar, and tomb column.

Hatch-thoke (Winchester College). The term signifies founder's days, which are holidays with Amen Chapel at 11 A.M. There are three in Long Half and two in Short Half. Nobody need be up till 9 A.M. The Warden and Fellows on those days assemble and discuss college affairs.

Hatchway (nautical), the mouth.

Hat fellow commoner (Cambridge). At Trinity College, a fellow commoner, who was either a baronet, the eldest son of one, or the younger son of a nobleman, formerly wore a tall hat instead of the square cap or "mortar-board."

Hatfield (common), a drink consisting of gin and gingerbeer, and other ingredients.

A deep draught of iced *Hatfield*.
—*Punch.*

Hating out (American), sending a man to Coventry.

The punishment for idleness, lying, dishonesty, and ill-fame generally was that of *hating* the offender *out*, as they expressed it. It commonly resulted in the reformation or banishment of the person against whom it was directed. If a man did not do his share of the public service, he was *hated out* as a coward.—*S. Mercharal: History of Virginia.*

Hat trick (cricket), a bowler who takes three wickets in succession is said to have done the *hat trick*. From the custom of giving him a hat as a recognition of his skill.

Only three attained to double figures, and the collapse at the end of the innings was remarkable, the wickets of Attewell, Newton, and Beaumont falling to three successive balls from Griffin, who thus accomplished the *hat trick*.—*Standard.*

Haul my wind (nautical), an expression when an individual is going upon a new line of action, to avoid a quarrel or difficulty (Admiral Smyth).

Haul over the coals, to (society), to scold, give a lecture to. Very often used in reference to any one in an official position who gets reprimanded. Supposed to refer to the ordeal by fire. More

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

probably an allusion to the state of discomfort of a person fuming under the scolding. The French have the familiar phrase, "être sur le gril," to be on tenter-hooks, in a stew, literally on the gridiron.

Have the drop on, to (American), to have the advantage of, to cover with an aim. From the drop, bead, or sight on a rifle.

Havey-cavey (popular), wavering doubtful.

Hawk (common), cardsharper, swindler.

He kept a private hotel at the West End of London, which might be termed a gambling-house frequented by dissipated lords—*hawks* and "pigeons."—*Evening News.*

The Germania or Spanish cant has *gerifalte*, a kind of *hawk*, for a thief; and *aquila* (eagle), for an expert thief.

Hāwker (gipsy), to drive away; Hindu, *hawkáná.*

Hawks her meat (common), said of a woman who is very *décolletée.* French, "elle montre sa viande."

Hawk, ware (thieves), be careful! look out!

Hawse (nautical), "to fall athwart one's *hawse*," to come across one, to obstruct one's way.

Hay, to make (common), to throw everything into confusion, to turn topsy-turvy. Originally an Oxford phrase.

The fellows were mad with fighting too. I wish they hadn't come here and *made hay* afterwards.—*H. Kingsley: Ravenshoe.*

Hazard-drum (thieves), a gambling-house.

Haze, to. In England, to confuse, annoy, and intentionally perplex by contradictory orders. In the United States it expresses physical as well as mental cruelty. It is there peculiarly applied to the tormenting of newly-arrived students in universities and military or naval schools. This practice is sometimes carried to a great extent.

West Point has just held a court-martial over the insubordination of certain cadets, and now the Annapolis Naval School is indulging in much the same luxury. The accused were guilty of *hazing* some of the younger academicians.—*American Newspaper.*

Hazree (Anglo-Indian), this word is commonly used (Anglo-Indian Glossary) in Anglo-Indian households in the Bengal Presidency, for breakfast. It is not clear how it got this meaning. It is probably *hāziri*, "muster;" from the Arabic *ḥāzir*, "ready" or "present."

He can't dance (American), sometimes heard to indicate a man without culture. "His daddy hasn't got no peach-orchard, and *he can't dance.*" In Delaware, where almost every farm contains a peach-orchard, this allusion to the orchard would imply a very small landed proprietor. Not many years ago there were not a few people

who regarded music in divine service as a profane thing. A rustic who had never even heard of such a thing visited one of the great cities, and found himself on Sunday morning before the door of a church. "Walk in, sir," said the sexton, "and attend service." Just then the organ pealed loudly and the stranger drew back in horror. "No, mister," he replied; "I ain't used to no sitch carryin's-on on a Sunday—besides, *I can't dance!*"

Head (American), to get a *head*, or a *head* on, is to have a swelled head after being intoxicated.

Neal Dow has been lecturing on "How to get a *head*." It pains us that the good old gentleman should evince so much knowledge of the after effects of excessive drinking.—*Detroit Tribune.*

To put a *head* on a man, to assault with intent to annihilate an adversary.

But all his jargon was surpassed, in wild absurdity,
By threats, profanely emphasised, to *put a head* on me!
No son of Belial, said I, that miracle can do!
Whereat he fell upon me with blows and curses too,
But failed to work that miracle—if such was his design—
Instead of *putting on a head*, he strove to smite off mine.
—*Galveston News.*

Head-beetler (workmen), the bully of a workshop.

Head boy (Royal Military Academy), the senior under-officer.

Head-cook and bottle-washer (popular), a general servant.

Header (tailors), a notability.

Heading (American cow-boy slang), a pillow or anything put under the head at night (C. Leland Harrison: MS. Americanisms).

Head-quarters (turf), Newmarket.

Head-rails (popular), the teeth. Originally a sea phrase, the *head-rails* being the short rails of the head extending from the back of the figure to the cat-head.

While to another he would cheerfully remark, "Your *head-rails* were loosened then, wasn't they?"—*C. Bede Verdant Green.*

Head robber (popular), a butler.

Head robbers (journalistic), plagiarists, those who steal the work of other men's brains.

Head-serag (Bengalee and sea), a master, overseer, or other important personage. From *serang*, a boatswain, according to Hotten. Evidently the same as the provincial *head Sir Rag*, a principal, the chief agent or actor in anything.

Heads out! (American University), a cry of alarm and warning to be on guard when a professor or master is near, and when any lark or spree is in progress.

Head station (up-country Australian), the homestead on an Australian station. *Vide* STA-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

TION. The *head station* is the house occupied by the owner or manager of a station or run, and of course contains the office at which its business is transacted.

Soon they passed a *head station*, as the homestead and main buildings of a station are invariably called. . . The houses were comfortably built, and of handsome design; a large garden adjoined them; creepers covered the verandahs and outbuildings, of which there were many; and several paddocks of great extent, encircled by substantial post and rail fences, surrounded the whole.—*A. C. Grant: Bush-Life in Queensland.*

Healtheries (common), modern slang abbreviation for the Health Exhibition.

Heap, all of a (common), amazed, confused, dismayed.

The *Daily News* is *all of a heap* this morning over the Gower election.—*Globe.*

Heap, struck all of a (popular), amazed.

Hearing cheats (old cant), the ears, now termed "leathers" or "lugs."

Heartburn. London cads, who find a name for everything, thus call a cigar, evidently a very cheap one.

Heave a booth, to (thieves), to plunder a house. Also to "heave a case."

Heavenly collar and lappel (tailors), a name given to collars or lappels that turn the wrong way.

Heaver (old cant), the breast, now called the "panter;" hence *heavers*, persons in love.

Heavy dragoons (Oxford University), bugs (Hotten).

Heavy swell (common), a great swell.

And Mr. Crackit is a *heavy swell*, an't he, Fagin?—*Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Heavy wet (common), strong malt liquor; principally used to describe porter, stout, or double stout, and sometimes called treble X., because designated by publicans and brewers as XXX.

To the Blue Posts let us go,
There will clouds of bacca blow,
And our cares we'll forget
In a flood of *heavy wet*.
—*Song of* 1828.

Hedge, to (turf), to reverse on advantageous terms the previous order of a wager—*e.g.*, if a person takes 100 to 10 about a horse for a future race, and subsequently lays 90 to 10 against the same animal, he has *hedged* his money—he may win £10, but cannot under any circumstances lose.

You must back a winner before you can win in any case, system or no system. Of course, a horse can be laid against, or a bet may be *hedged*, but this does not apply to the backing of horses on a system.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Popular), to get away on the appearance of danger.

Hedge-bottom attorney or **solicitor** (legal). This is applied to a person who, not being himself a solicitor, or who, if he is, has

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

not taken out his certificate (or perhaps has been a solicitor, but has been struck off the rolls for unprofessional conduct), sets up in business as a solicitor under the name of a man who is a solicitor, and thus evades the penalties attaching to those who act as solicitors without being duly qualified; because, although all the business is done in the name of another, yet he it is who is the real principal, introducing the clients, doing the legal business, and pocketing the fees; the other is only a dummy to be used as a figure-head for evading the law.

Hedgehog, to (Northampton provincial), to reveal, to open, to bring to light. "A witness giving evidence in an Assize Court said 'the prisoner *hedgehogged!*' On being asked what he meant, he said that 'a *hedgehog* when in water opened; and the man, when they gave him plenty of beer, opened and told all he knowed.'"

Hedger (turf). *Vide* HEDGE.

That a tailor's bad to beat when his plans are all complete,
Must be plain to every punter, sharp, and *hedger;*
So if Eiridspord's the pea, as he'll very likely be,
Follow Taylor as a snip for the St. Leger.

—*Sporting Times.*

He'd play his hand for all there was in it (American), a very significant intimation that a man would make all that he could by fair means or foul.

"I was moighty hard up at the time—right down on the bed-rock—and it may be that I was just monkeying with the cards—a little."

"You bet yer!" cried Jake from the store. "*He'd play his hand for all there was in it*, anyhow."—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Heeled (Western American), armed, weaponed, well defended. An allusion to the practice of arming the birds in cock-fighting with steel spurs. "Were both men *heeled?*" *i.e.*, were they both armed.

If I'd had any show, I'd have drawn on 'em right away—I wanted to ter'ble bad; but I hadn't got no Winchester along, and only two cartridges in my six-shooter, whilst they was both well-*heeled.* —*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Heeler (American), an accomplice of the pocket-book dropper. The *heeler* stoops behind the victim and strikes one of his heels as if by mistake. This makes him look down, and so draws his attention to the pocket-book which lies on the ground. The dupe is about to pick it up, when the dropper steps forward and claims half of whatever may be in the pocket-book, but offers to relinquish his share for a certain sum, ten or twenty dollars. The dupe, who has taken a peep and ascertained that the dummy is stuffed with bank-notes, pays the money, and then finds out later that he has bought counterfeit bills. "*Heelers* and strikers," men who beset can-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

didates for office to extort money from them on divers pretences.

(Winchester College), a jump into the water feet first. French schoolboys call this "une chandelle."

Heels, to turn up (old), to die, also "to turn up one's toes." A variant was to "topple up the heels."

The backewinter . . . and sicknesse . . . seaven thousand and fifty people *toppled up their heels* then.—*Nash: Lenten Stuffe.*

Heel-tap, a small quantity of liquor left in the glass by any one who drinks or pretends to drink the honour of a proposed toast. This was held in the ultra convivial days of our not very remote ancestors to be a mark of disrespect or of effiminacy, and was often met by the warning of "No *heel-taps*." Also the fag end of a bottle.

Nick took off his *heel-tap*, bowed, smiled with an air
Most graciously grim, and vacated the chair. —*Ingoldsby Legends.*

Heel-taps properly are pieces of leather fastened on the bottom of a boot or shoe when repairing the sole. Hence the metaphor.

He-foo (pidgin), a sky-rocket, literally "a rise-fire" (Cantonese).

Hefty (American). Bartlett defines this as "heavy" in the sense of weight. It is also used to indicate anything great, remarkable, or extraordinary in a "moral" as well as a physical sense.

In course they knows what a perlocefede (velocipede) is, from seein' 'em in pictures, but they never seed a real machine, and it'd be a *hefty* treat for 'em!—*Thomas Stevens: Around the World on a Bicycle.*

He got there with both feet (American), meaning that he was very successful.

He said as he'd been gambling, and was two hundred dollars ahead of the whole town. *He got there with both feet* at starting, and was eight hundred ahead once. But he played it off at monté.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Heifer paddock, (Australian), a ladies' school. The derivation from heifer, a young cow—cow being a slang word for a woman—is obvious.

"The fact is, my dear Murray," he added, "the cattle (women) hereabouts are too scattered, you can't inspect them properly. Next year I shall look over *a heifer paddock* in Sydney and take my pick."—*Mrs. Campbell Reed: Sketches of Australian Life.*

Heigh-ho (thieves), stolen yarn.

Hékka! hokki! (gypsy), haste! Possibly the original of "hook it," *i.e.*, hurry.

Hell (tailors), the place where a tailor deposited his cabbage (Wright).

Hell and scissors! (American), a peculiar interjection, signifying that while one startled at something there is still something ridiculous in the affair. "To kick up *hell*—and break things" is often uttered in quite the same spirit.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES INDIA

Hell and tommy (popular). To "play *hell and tommy*" with any one, to ruin him utterly. According to Dr. Charles Mackay, this grotesque expression probably means to reduce a man to extreme destitution, or to bread and water, and if so, an etymon may be found in the Keltic *ol*, drink, and *tomadh* (*toma*), a lump of bread.

Hell a-popping (American), a tremendous row or dispute, no doubt from the propensity of those who use the expression for using their "six-shooters" on the slightest provocation.

There was *hell a-popping*. One fellow said he had roped in a sow with the left ear off. . . . Another fellow said that he had got a young boar with the right ear off. So they went to him, madder than hell they were, too.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Hell-box (printers), the receptacle for bad, broken, or "battered" letters, which are eventually melted down.

Hellion (American), a very abusive word, used in the Southern States, equivalent to "devil or hell's own." Possibly a form of hell-hound.

Hell's kitchen (American), a horrible slum. *Hell's Kitchen*, Murderer's Row, and the Burnt Rag are names of localities which form collectively the worst place in New York.

Poor old Bottle Alley, in Baxter Street, has become a mere snoozing-ken for vagrants made sodden and stupid with age, disease, and rum; *Hell's Kitchen*, those big Thirty-ninth Street tenements, offer harm to no one, except when a shower of stones falls from the gutters on an unpopular policeman.—*Philadelphia Press.* (*From MS. Collection of Americanisms, by C. Leland Harrison.*)

Hell's mint (American). "A mint of money" has led to describing a large quantity of anything as one. "Old B. has got a *mint* of houses, as I hear." Hence *hell's mint*, as a superlative of abundance.

Is that an Indian over there, or is it only a soap-weed? There's a *hell's mint* of soap-weed killed these Indian times, grease bush too—and cactus! cactus gets fits. The boys are death on cactus when they get scared. Some of them would just as soon shoot a cactus as not—they don't care what they kill.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

He makes his fun pay (American), said of a very shrewd man, one for instance who keeps horses to ride and drive, yet manages so well by "trading" that they cost him nothing. A great sharper having said to Lessing that it had cost him ten thousand dollars to see the world, Lessing replied that he feared that the world would gladly give quite as much never to have seen him.

Hemp, young (old), young scoundrel deserving the gallows.

Hempen croak (common), the hangman's rope.

Hempen widow (thieves), one whose husband was hanged.

In a cell of the stone jug I was born,
Of a *hempen widow* the kid forlorn.
—*Harrison Ainsworth.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Hen (American), a wife or mistress, girl or woman.

This was more than Jane could endure from Emily. "My young man is as good as yours," she screamed, "and five miles out of town better." And saying this she administered an exhilarating old slap on the face which sounded like the breaking of a tall pine tree by a cyclone. The *hen*-fight lasted exactly five minutes. What was left required exactly two weeks eight hours and ten minutes to reconstruct.—*Philadelphia Newspaper.*

The nights are spent at a poker game,
He speaks of the ballet as something tame,
And with jibe and joke, these racy men
Refer to the season that brings his *hen*,
And pleasures flee.
—*Hollis W. Field.*

Hen-convention (popular), an assemblage of women at which no man is present. Also "hen-party."

Hen-frigate (nautical), a ship in which the captain's wife plays a domineering part, "wears the breeches."

Hen-house (old), a house for soldiers' wives.

Hens and chickens (thieves), explained by quotation.

The *hens and chickens* of the low lodging-houses are the publicans' pewter measures; the bigger vessels are *hens*, the smaller *chickens*.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

Called also "cats and kittens."

Herder (American). In the West, a white man who has charge of a gang of Chinese.

I found large gangs of Chinamen at work in different places, in charge of a white man who was called the *herder*. This job is not always a happy one, although it is well paid, for the Chinamen who work on railroads are the very scum of China, wharf-rats from Hong-Kong, and are evil and desperate. Consequently it is no uncommon thing for a *herder* to get killed or badly beaten by them.—*M. Roberts: The Western Avernus.*

(American cowboys), baby *herder*, a nurse.

Herdic (American), a carriage for public conveyance, something like a small omnibus. They were invented and brought into use by a Mr. Herdic of Pennsylvania, whence the name. They are now common in most American cities.

Honest men, like needles in hay-mounds, are hard to find, but we have one in our midst, and his name is Joseph Carroll, driver of private *herdic*.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Hereford (American cowboy), white.

A white shirt he calls a *Hereford* shirt because Hereford cattle have white faces. Similarly calls anything *Hereford* that is white; for example, *Hereford* dishes and *Hereford* hats. Carrying this fancy still further, a "white" man is known as a *Hereford* man.—*Philadelphia Press.* (*C. Leland Harrison: MS. Americanisms.*)

Here's luck (tailors), I don't believe it.

Hermaphrodite or **morfydite schooner** (nautical) is square rigged, but without a top forward, and schooner rigged abaft; carrying only fore-and-aft sails on the mainmast; in other phrase, she is a vessel with a brig's foremast and a schooner's mainmast (Admiral Smyth).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Herring (American), all bad, all alike. Hence the later expression "sardine," applied to a man who is exactly like all his associates, a narrow-minded, average sort of person, who has been packed away as it were among others.

Herring gutted (old), lanky.

Herring pond, the (common), a facetious name given to the Atlantic Ocean. Said to be of American origin, but now commonly used in both continents.

Everybody nowadays has read as much as he or she cares to about the voyage across *the herring-pond*, a voyage of which many of our American cousins think less than other men of a Channel-crossing.—*Phillipps-Wolley: Trottings of a Tenderfoot.*

He's gone north about (nautical) said of a sailor who has died from any cause but drowning. Shakspeare in "Twelfth Night" (Act iii. scene 2) uses a somewhat similar phrase, and which seems to throw some light upon the expression as used by sailors:—"You are now sailed into the *north of my lady's opinion*, where you will hang like an icicle on a Dutchman's beard, unless you do reclaim it by some laudable attempt."

Hewgag, the (American), name for an undeterminate, unknown mythical creature.

Hick, country (old cant), a stupid clodhopper.

Hickjap (thieves), a fool. *Hicksam*, a countryman, a foolish fellow.

Hickey (thieves), tipsy, not quite drunk, elated. Probably from hiccough.

Hickety split. *Vide* FULL DRIVE.

Hickory shirt (American), a cheap, durable woollen shirt generally worn by working men, or by those who dispense with linen or muslin.

"Good heavens, g'rl!" asked Mr. Neece of the domestic, "what are you doing with that *hickory shirt?*"

"Faith an' I'm brushing some of the dust out of it. It's in a shameful condition."—*Peona Transcript.*

Hid (American), an abbreviation of hideous, used as a noun. Used chiefly by girls. "She's a perfect *hid*."

Hiding (common), a good *hiding*, a severe beating with the "hide," or dried skin of an animal, formerly used as a scourge. To "cow-hide," or beat with a cow or ox-hide, is a common expression, and before the use of the revolver became unhappily prevalent, was once a common practice in the United States. The word has been erroneously derived from the effect of the beating, the skin or hide of the beaten person, and not from the material of the scourge itself.

"What right has a josser like you to interfere?" the coal-heaver retorted, turning toward the tall stranger. "You may be a D., but I will give you a *hiding* for your cheek."—*Bird o' Freedom.*

High, the (Oxford), the High Street at Oxford.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

And after calling in at the tailor's to express his approbation, he at once sallied forth to *do the High.—C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

High and dry (clerical), old-fashioned members of the Church of England are often described disrespectfully as being *high and dry*. Those of the Evangelical Church are per contra dubbed "low and slow." (American), a simile borrowed from any article left on the beach by a retreating tide. To be left without resources, to be quite abandoned and helpless.

They ate like brave men, long and well; they gobbled there and then,
Till the abdomens grew rotund of those gallant Fremont men,
A beef a day to every man was but a small supply;
Soon conquered they Vallejo's ranch—they ate him *high and dry*.
—*Political Song of* 1850.

High-boy, a High Tory and Churchman, supposed to favour Jacobitism (O. Davis).

High faluting (American), high-flown, extravagant, bombastic language; also said of a gay, impudent sort of fellow. "There can be little doubt," says Mr. Bartlett, "of its derivation from high 'flighting.'" As for its coming, as Hotten absolutely asserts, as if it were an established fact, from the Dutch *verlooten* (which word he does not translate), it is enough to say that *verlooten* means "to cast lots." It is very remarkable that there exists in yiddish the word *hifelufelem*, meaning extravagant language or nonsense.

Hifelufelem is Narret hei, Possen, Schwank, Rānk.—*Der Herried ene Laubfrosch.*

The remarkable resemblance, as regards both sound and meaning, existing between these words cannot fail to strike the reader. Of late years, terms known more or less to all Jews, especially of the commoner class, have begun to work far more freely into American slang than is generally supposed. By associating *hifelufelem* with "high flighting," *high faluten* would be speedily evolved. It may be observed that in rapid conversation, the Hebrew or yiddish word becomes *hifelufem* or *hifelufen*, which is a materially nearer approach to the well-known American term.

The phrase is now common in England.

A paper in Cincinnati was very much given to *high falutin'* on the subject of "this great country," until a rival paper somewhat modified its continual bounce with the following burlesque: "This is a glorious country! It has longer rivers and more of them, and they are muddier and deeper, and run faster, and rise higher, and make more noise, and fall lower, and do more damage than anybody else's rivers."—*Tit Bits.*

High fly, on the (mendicants), begging on the high "toby" or high road, and tramping over the country. Also operating as a begging-letter impostor.

Highflyer (common), an incredible or extravagant story.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

High go (American University), a merry drinking-bout or frolic. "To get high" is to become tipsy and intoxicated.

High horse (American). It is commonly said of any one who is putting on airs or assuming a lofty or dignified tone, that "he is on his *high horse*." Something equivalent to it is to be found in many languages. The French say "monter sur ses grands chevaux" (not slang).

High jinks, properly an old Scottish pastime played in different ways. At a club or convivial gathering is that part of the evening when the punch-bowl is introduced together with unlimited license.

There he found the eleven at *high jinks* after supper, Jack Raggles shouting comic songs and performing feats of strength; and was greeted by a chorus of mingled remonstrance at his desertion, and joy at his appearance.—*Tom Brown's School-days.*

(Common), a jollification.

All sorts of revelry, all sorts of devilry,
All play at *high jinks* and keep up the ball;
Days, weeks, and months, it is really astonishing,
As to what passed on his own wedding-day.
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

To play the *high jinks*, to take up an arrogant position.

In days of yore the Lord of Misrule
Played very *high jinks* at the Tide of Yule,
And sported about like a chartered fool,
And did pretty much as he chose;
There were scarce any bounds to his quips and cranks,
His lunatic larks and his motley pranks,
And victims who suffered e'en offered him thanks
For robbing them of repose.
—*Fun.*

(American), *high jinks*, small gamblers.

High rented (popular), hot. A seat near a fire is said to be *high rented* when it gets too hot for comfort.

High roller (American), one who plays high, or who takes the lead.

He's a *high roller*, by gum! when he's got it (*i.e.*, money).—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Donaldson in those days was known as a *high roller*, and under his instructions John dealt the game without a limit. Donaldson finally left the business here and went west.—*Chicago Daily Inter-Ocean.*

High rope, on the (American), in a passion, very loud, taking on great airs.

High stepper (society), a well-dressed girl, who has a good figure and is handsome, a swell of any kind.

High tariff language (American), rhapsodical, magniloquent, or extravagant words.

Mingle in de mazes of de dance dou knight ob valour, while de resplendent luminary of de day has wifdrawn his light from de earf, till de bright Aurora gilds de eastern sky wid golden an' den wid carrowkteristic gallivantry, accompany de fair an' umsumfisticated partners of dy pleasure to deir pyternel mansions—Herey dat am *high tariff language.—Brudder Bones.*

High ti (American University), a showy recitation. In use at

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Williams College. At Harvard the equivalent is a "squirt."

High tobers. In American thieves' slang, the very highest order of "gonoffs" or thieves, who go well dressed and frequent watering-places.

High toby (old cant), the high road. "On the *high toby*," to take to the road as a *high toby*-man or highwayman.

High toby, which, in ancient robber slang, meant the high revelry and luxury and reckless indulgence which characterised the existence of those bold blades who took to the road, was nowhere visible.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

It was one thing to hear play-actors on the stage, in their tame and feeble delineations of the ancient game of *high toby*, and of the redoubtable doings of the Knights of the Road, spout such soul-thrilling effusions as "Nix my Dolly, pals," and "Claude Duval;" but what must it be to listen to the same bold staves out of the mouth of real "roaring boys," some of them, possibly, the descendants of the very heroes who rode "up Holborn Hill in a cart," and who could not well hear the good words the attendant chaplain was uttering, because of the noisy exchange of boisterous "chaff" taking place between the short-pipe smoking driver, whose cart-seat was the doomed man's coffin, and the gleeful mob that had made holiday to see the fun!—*Seven Curses of London.*

High-tone niggers (American), negroes who have raised themselves in social position, or in other ways bettered their condition.

I never saw any so-called *high-tone niggers;* and, except in the capacity of barbers, waiters, and shoeblacks, never saw any coloured men in the hotels.—*Phillipps-Wolley: Trottings of a Tenderfoot.*

Highwater mark, up to the (common), up to the mark, an expression of approval.

High-wood (common), properly a name given to timber. "He lives in *high-wood*," he conceals himself, he has a secret game.

Higulcion flips (Texas), an imaginary malady.

Hike (London slang), to carry off, convey, arrest. "*Hike*, to swing, put in motion, toss, throw, strike, to go away, hurry" (Wright's Dictionary).

And *hiked* me off as sure as fate,
Before the sitting magistrate.
—*Song: If I had a Donkey, &c.*

Hi! Kelly (provincial Manx), a mode of address among passers-by in the Isle of Man. Kelly is the name borne by a large number of people in the island—hence probably its derivation.

Hindboot (common), the breech.

Hind coachwheel (popular), a crown. In French slang a five-franc piece is termed "roue de derrière."

Hing (Anglo-Indian), assafœtida. It is remarkable that the Germans call this abominably smelling gum *teufel's-dröck*, i.e., *stercus diaboli*, while the common gypsy name for voiding excrement is *hinger*.

Hip (thieves), *hip* inside, inside coat pocket; *hip* outside, outside pocket.

Hipped (common), ill. To be *hipped*, to suffer from "a fit of the blues," or of hypochondria.

Hippen, a Scotch synonym for the green curtain. Hence in Glasgow the gods shout "Up with the *hippen!*"

His nabs there (tailors), him, the individual referred to. A variant of "his nibs."

His nibs (theatrical), himself, his person. From the old English *neb*, the face, also nose.

When the President's carriage arrives in front of the church, with Albert Hawkins on the box, wearing a big bearskin cape as black as his face, and driving the two big, lumbering "seal browns," there is gathered about the doors of the sanctuary a crowd of two or three hundred, awaiting the arrival of the gentleman whom Tim Campbell, of New York, immortalised himself by speaking of as *his nibs*.—*Chicago Herald.*

Hiss (Winchester College), a signal of a master's approach. The "cave" or "chucks" of schoolboys and French *vesse*.

Hit the flat, to (cowboys), to go out on the prairies.

Hitched (American), married. Literally harnessed.

Hitch horses, to (American), to agree, to draw or pull well together.

I never truckle to any man, if he is as big as all out of doors. After he poked his fist in my face, at one election, we never *hitched horses* together.—*Bartlett.*

Hitch one's team to the fence, to (American), to remain for any time in a place.

Already people from Lyrsilla and the citron groves of St. Lawrence county are coming into town, bringing their dinners and *hitching their teams to the fence* behind the Coliseum.—*New York Mercury.*

Hits him where he lives (American), goes home, hurts his deepest feelings, wounds him in his domestic relations.

"That," says the editor, "*hits him whar he lives*. That will chase him up as bad as it did when I wrote an article ridicooling his sister, who's got a cock-eye."—*Artemus Ward: Things in New York.*

Hive, to (American cadet), to steal or "bone"—to take a thing without permission. "To get *hived*" is to be caught in a scrape.

The Amateur Cadets' Band was *hived* by the inspecting officer one night "after taps" while they were serenading in barracks without permission. As a natural result the entire band was reported and punished and had all their musical instruments confiscated.—*The West Point Scrap Book.*

(Popular American), to cover up, to entrap.

Hived perfectly frigid (American cadet), said of cadets who, when beyond bounds or otherwise transgressing the academy rules, are caught *in flagrante delicto* without the least possible chance of escape.

Hivers (American), women or men who travel with a swarm of prostitutes, generally in the Wild West, with a view to making money by them.

Hivite, a student of St. Bee's.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Hoaky, by the (nautical), synonymous with "hang it!"

Hobbled (thieves), committed for trial.

Hobbler (nautical), a coast man of Kent, a bit of a smuggler and an unlicensed pilot, ever ready for a job in either of these occupations. Also a man on land employed in towing a vessel by a rope (Admiral Smyth).

Hobby (university), a translation. Those who use cribs in translating from the Latin, Greek, and other languages, are said to ride *hobbies*.

Hob-jobber (street), a man or boy who loiters about the streets waiting for small jobs, such as holding horses, carrying parcels, &c.

Days came in which there was a *hob-jobber's* famine; no horses to hold, no parcels to carry.—*The Goal Cradle.*

Hobson-Jobson (Anglo-Indian), a phrase peculiar to the British soldier, by whom it was invented. It is in fact an Anglo-Saxon version of the wailings of the Mahommedans, as they beat their breasts in the processions of the Moharram: *Ya Hasan, ya Hossain!* (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

Hob's hog (provincial Northampton). When a person conjectures wrongly, he is compared to *Hob's hog*, a local story being that the mythical porker in question imagined his breakfast was coming, when it was only the butcher preparing to kill him.

Hock (American), caught. Caught in *hock* is caught by the heels. The last card in the box. Among thieves a man is in *hock* when he is in prison, but when one gambler is caught by another smarter than himself and is beat, then he is in *hock*. Down South (*i.e.*, in the Southern States), men are only put in *hock* on the race-tracks. In a *hock*-game, if a man hits a card, he is obliged to let his money lie until it either wins or loses. Of course, there are nine hundred and ninety-nine chances against the player, and the oldest man living never yet saw him win, and thus he is caught in *hock* (New York Slang Dictionary).

The author of this work derives *hock* clearly enough from the English slang term for a foot. It may be observed, however, that *hok* in Dutch thieves' slang means credit or debt, which would furnish quite as good a derivation.

Hock-dockies (popular), shoes or boots.

Hocker, hākker (gypsy), to jump.

Hocus-pocus (now recognised), a term applied originally to deception of the eye by means of legerdemain, now commonly used for any formula of cheating, delusion, or humbug. Crabb

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

("Gipsies' Advocate," p. 18) says that gypsies pronounce habeas corpus, *hawcus pacous*, a manifest error, as in doing this they simply follow the word for a joke. That it is derived from a burlesque rendering of *hoc est corpus* in the Latin Church-service is a mere bit of conjectural philology. In the Romany tongue *hoc* or *hūk* is the root signifying deceit or falsehood in a very extended sense. "Quite a little family of words has come into English from the gypsy *hoc*, *hocben*, *huckaben*, *hokeny*, and *hooker*, all meaning a lie, deception, and humbug. Mr. Bonar shows us that *hocus*, to bewitch liquor with an opiate, and *hoax* are probably from the same root; and I have no doubt that the expression, 'Yes, with a *hook*,' meaning 'it is false,' comes from the same. 'Hookey' and 'Walker' are of this family" ("The English Gypsies," p. 81). *Hoc* therefore means deceit or delusion, and the English gypsy, like many Hindus, adds *us* in a most arbitrary and irregular manner to any root whatever to make a noun. It is sometimes even affixed to English words, *e.g.*, side-*us*, a side. This gives *hocus*, a pure gipsy word. As *pocus*, it has probably something in common as to its root with "pankey" (*vide* HANKEY-PANKEY), as a certain sleight-of-hand or "substitution" cheat is called in gypsy *huckeny poukee*, or *huckeny pokee*, the latter being the common word. That this is sometimes called *huckeny pokus* or *pocus* anybody can ascertain by asking the first old gypsy whom he may meet. As a proof of the soundness of this derivation, it may be observed that "hokee-pokee" (which is simply *hocus-pocus*, without the gypsy noun-terminal), is common and very old slang, used firstly as a magic formula in juggling, and sometimes in any aggregate of unintelligible words.

> Hokey-pokee, winkee fum,
> Flibbidee, flobbidee, buskey bum.
> —*The King of the Cannibal Islands.*

Hod (American thieves), a mason or builder.

Hod of mortar (rhyming slang), a pot of porter.

Hoe in, to (American University), to work with vigour. French *piocher*.

Hog (popular), half-a-crown.

> Two bobs and a half equal one *hog*.—*Punch*.

Old cant for a shilling, also a sixpence.

"Champollion-Figeac, the brother of the famous Champollion, makes in his work on Egypt the following observations: "Also it appears there were (in Egypt) masses of gold bearing another shape than that of the ring, for instance the form of a frog, of a calf, of an ox, and that it had thus become a custom to reckon a particular object as worth so many oxen,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

another as so many calves, or so many frogs, meaning thereby certain known weight of gold" (Leigh Hunt's Journal).

Hoga (Anglo-Indian), to work, to do. "That won't *hoga*," that won't do.

Hog and hominy (American). *Hog* is pork, and *hominy* is maize or Indian corn scalded, so that it is white as rice, to which it bears when boiled a great resemblance. As pork and *hominy* are the two cheapest articles of food in the United States, the term is very generally used to express plain, common diet.

Hog, hogged (binders), said of a book which has the back bulging out, from the binding having given way.

Hogminny (old slang), a very young girl very depraved; one who makes a free present of her person. From "Hogmena," Christmas and New Year's presents.

Hogoo, strong smell. This word, a corruption of the French *haut goût*, is given as slang by Hotten and others; but it is to be found in a dictionary, 1748, as a recognised word.

Hogs (American), a term sometimes applied in jest to the inhabitants of Chicago. (Old), to drive *hogs* to market, to snore.

I'gad he fell asleep, and snored so loud that we thought he was driving his *hogs* to market.—*Swift: Polite Conversation.*

Hogshead, to couch a (old cant), to lie down, go to sleep. The phrase explains itself, *hogshead* being a term for body.

Hog, to (American), to cheat, humbug, to do for, to break.

"Go," he said, "go, my son, and *hog* the public" (he meant "knock 'em"); but the old man was allers a little given to slang). —*Artemus Ward: Boston.*

This is probably derived from *hogged*, or broken, as applied to steamboats. It agrees with the Anglo-Indian *hoga*, to do, but probably by mere accidental coincidence.

Hog, to go the whole. So universally used as to be a recognised phrase. To do a thing, good or evil, thoroughly and completely. This term became very common in America about 1834. It was applied to those who approved entirely of General Jackson's measures. It is said to be derived from a story in a poem which was to be found in most American school reading-books, of the declaration of Mahomet that there is a portion of the swine which no true believer should eat. But as they could not agree which part this was among them, the Mussulmans ate up the entire animal, or "went *the whole hog*."

Ho-gya (Anglo-Indian), used by Anglo-Indians in the sense of "up a tree," or of the failure of any undertaking.

Hoisting (thieves). Hotten defines this as only shop-lifting.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

In America the term is applied to a very peculiar kind of robbery. To rob a house two or three men gather together, one of whom stands close to the wall and the next one climbs up so as to stand on his shoulders, while the third does the same. By long practice this can be done with great ease, so that a thief can enter a window ten or even fifteen feet from the ground. This is called the hoist-lay. A hoister means however a shop-lifter as well, and also a sot.

Hokey-pokey (common), good-for-nothing, cheated, done. This word seems as regards both meaning and sound to have a relation to the Yiddish *orche-porchem*, a vagabond, a tramp. It is from "hocus-pocus."

A kind of inferior ice sold in the streets and especially at race meetings amongst the lower classes.

Ho-lan-kwoh (pidgin, Dutch), "Holland-nation."

Hold, do you (London slang), have you any money to lend or stand treat with?

Hold-out (cardsharpers), the vest *hold-out*, sleeve *hold-out*. Explained by quotation.

The old-time poker sharp was not well equipped unless he had a vest *hold-out*. That was a black satin vest with claws inside that came out of the bosom, seized the necessary cards, and slid it in again. It was worked by a chain that ran down the trousers leg and hooked to the heel of the boot, and was such a clumsy and complicated apparatus that I would as soon think of carrying a threshing-machine around with me. Then there was the sleeve *hold-out*, nearly as bad, and the different *hold-outs* to fasten to the edge of the table.—*Star.*

Hold the stage, to (theatrical), is said of an experienced actor who is fully at home on the stage, and always commands the attention of the audience. Corresponds to the French phrase, "avoir des planches."

Hold up, to (American thieves), to molest, rob with violence.

Two thieves were caught in New York, . . . mistaking two detectives for persons in their own line of business, they invited them *to hold up* a man.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Also to arrest, take in custody.

Didn't I give you fifty dollars for leaving my place alone when it was on your beat? You can't *hold me up* now.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Hold your horses (American), an injunction not to go too far, or say too much.

Oh, *hold your hosses*, will you,
And do not drive so fast!
—*Song of* 1850.

Hole (printers). According to Moxon, 1683, a private printing-office, where unlicensed books were printed, was called a *hole*. The term would apply at the present day to a "cock-robin" shop. (Turf), to be in a *hole* is to lose or be defeated. *Vide* IN A HOLE.

Hole and corner (popular), plotting conspiracy. The metaphor is obvious—conspirators are

compelled to do their plotting in holes and corners.

"I will have none of this *hole and corner* business," said the proprietor of a great Australian journal to the new editor entering office. "No more picking out the weeds of a work to quote them as the flowers: I wish all the criticisms in my paper to be 'fair, square, and above ground.'"—*Anthony Trollope.*

Hollis (Winchester School), a smooth round stone.

Hollow (common), "to beat *hollow*," to surpass, to be far superior.

Holus-bolus (nautical), the neck, the head; in a hurry, helter-skelter.

Holy Joe (prison and nautical), the chaplain or any religious person.

Holy land (thieves), the thieves' quarter in St. Giles.

Home (turf), the *status quo ante* of the better. When a man recovers his previous losses he "gets *home*" on the day, the week, or the year, as the case may be. Strange to say this barren result is usually regarded by the achiever thereof with greater pride than the apparently more desirable process of winning.

Home bird (common), a man leading a very retired life, fond of his fireside; a milksop. French *chauffe-la-couche.*

Ho-ming (pidgin), Reuters' Telegram Company is so termed in the Shanghai Directory.

Homo-opathise (American), to get bills, *i.e.*, petitions for anything, through the Legislature, or Congress, or a City Council, by means of bills, *i.e.*, bank-bills. This application of *similia similibus* is unfortunately a rule of practice, with few exceptions, especially in the Legislatures, when a bill is brought forward which has "anything in it," *i.e.*, any money.

Honest Injun (American), a phrase equivalent to "honour bright." It is often heard among boys as a pledge of faith.

She says, "*Honest Injun*, now hain't you been telling me a lot of lies?" "*Honest Injun*," says I.—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.*

Honey (rhyming slang), money.

Hong-hahng (pidgin and Anglo-Indian), *hahng* in Chinese means a row or rank, a house of business. It is particularly applied to trading establishments, foreign or native. The latter were the so-called *hong* merchants who had the monopoly of foreign trade. This monopoly was abolished in 1842.

A society of *hong* or united merchants who are answerable for one another, both to the Government and to foreign nations. —*Sir G. Staunton: Embassy to China.*

Honour bright (common), on my honour.

Hoodlum (American), a vagabond or rough, a loafer. It was for a long time a Californian word, and is probably of Spanish origin. It may possibly be the pidgin

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

English, *hood lahnt*, good, *i.e.*, very lazy; *lahnt'o*, Mandarin.

Two *hoodlums* knocked down and nearly killed an aged priest in the streets of Versailles, France, the other day.—*Chicago Tribune.*

In San Francisco *hoodlums* are a class of young fools, corresponding in some degree to the English 'Arries. The *hoodlums* walk the streets arm in arm, upsetting everything in their passage "just for the sake of a lark."

Hoodman (London slang), blind, drunk.

"Yes," he said, explaining with some amount of regret his curious behaviour of the night before; "but haven't you noticed that whenever I am a little *hoodman* I invariably go on in that way?"

"Well, I can't say that I have," was the straightforward answer of the candid friend.

"Why not?"

"Because I have never seen you a little *hoodman*. I have always seen you so ballyhooly blind that——"

Several bystanders left on the spot without paying for their drinks.—*Sporting Times.*

He had shunted a quantum of whisky immense,
But that *hoodman* he was he denied;
Though he cast on the lamp-post a look so "intense"
That it might have been meant for his bride.
They passed over this, but when fivers galore
To the Tealeaf he offered to lend,
That he really was boozed, to a man they all swore,
Had appeared sure enough in the end!
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Hoodooed (American), *voudooed*, *i.e.*, killed, done for, used up; *voudou*, a term applied to the magic or secrecy practised among the blacks.

"Laps," said Mrs. Potter, laying her hand on my shoulder, "I'm *hoodooed* as sure as eggs are eggs. I've been training to do that death all summer, and I had a new play written to lead up to it, and now Lil has gone and gobbled my business."—*New York Morning Journal.*

Hoof it, to (thieves), to run away.

Hoof one's bum, to (common), to kick one in the lower part of the back.

Hook (popular and thieves), a pickpocket.

Take my tip and turn square, from a *hook* who is going to be lagged, would be, in common parlance, take my advice and get you living honestly, says a pickpocket, who is expecting penal servitude.—*W. J. Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Probably derived from hooking an article out by the fingers, which thence are called *hooks*. Or an abbreviation of *hooker*, old cant for a thief who steals things hanging up in shops by removing them with a hook. Stealing by means of a hook is still practised by a class of French thieves, who call it "vol au boulon" (*vide* Barrère's Argot and Slang). The French popular slang has *croc* (hook) for a thief, though Littré is inclined to believe this is a contraction of *escroc* (swindler). The ancient "hooker" was also called "angler," which corresponds to the Italian cant *pescator*, a thief, literally, a fisherman. Thus the literal hook has served as a metaphor for the English hook, hooker, angler, the French

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

croc, and the Italian *pescator*. The German cant has *höcken*, to lie, deceive, swindle, from the gypsy, though some derive it from *höcken*, to higgle, retail; *höke*, a higgler, huckster, which may be traced to *huke*, a hook, pedlars and porters on the continent using a contrivance for carrying their burdens, termed *crochets* (hooks) in French, hence *crocheteur*, a porter.

(Popular), a *hook*, a catch, an advantage; to take one's *hook*. *Vide* HOOK, TO SLING ONE'S.

Hooka-burdar (Anglo-Indian), a servant whose sole duty it was to take care of the master's pipe. As the *hookah* is now a thing of the past, the *burdar* has also passed away with it into the obsolete, so far as the pipe is concerned.

Hook and eye (tailors), walking arm in arm.

Hooker (old cant), a thief who used to steal articles from shops by means of a hook.

I will take my prince's part against all that shall oppose him, or any of us, according to the best of my ability; nor will I suffer *him*, or any one belonging to us, to be abused by any strange abrams, ruffies, *hookers*.—*Bamfylde Moore Carew: English Gypsies' Oath.*

(American), a woman of easy virtue, generally one who plies her trade on the streets.

Hookey Walker (popular), go away! be off! Also an ejaculation of incredulity synonymous with "get along with you!" Many origins have been ascribed to this term, which naturally explains itself by its connection with "hook it," *i.e.*, "go away," and "walk away."

Hooking cow (West American), a cow that will show fight, and try to toss the cowboys who are seeking to "cut her out" from the herd. From the English "to hook," said of an ox which tosses one.

One of the former was what is termed a *hooking cow*, and to escape her repeated charges tested all our agility.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Hook it, to (common), to run away. *Vide* HOOK, TO SLING ONE'S.

"You hain't been home since the mornin—not since you *hooked it* away?" Jerry's voice was tremulous with excitement as he asked the question.

"No, I've been away all day."—*The Little Ragamuffins.*

It has been suggested that it is derived from the gypsy *hokka* or *hekka*, hurry away, hasten.

Hook, on one's own (common), on one's own account or responsibility.

The tale runs that a scientific gentleman has been examining his wife's out-door jacket after each excursion, and has carefully collected every loose hair which he has found thereon.—*Society.*

Dependent for a living on one's own resources or exertions. Originally American.

Supplied me with physic whenever I wanted it, and accustomed me to a life of organised laziness—and yet at the end of this time they turn me out to get my living *on my own hook*.—*Evening News.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

What, loose several days in London—*on your own hook* and free to wander, and with no one to purtect you?—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

Possibly from the thieves' phrase to *hook*, to steal, thieving and getting a living being with them synonymous; or from *hook*, a catch, so that *on one's own hook* would mean literally, living on what one catches. It may also be derived from an allusion to a meat hook, metaphorically meaning larder, store. French authors have certainly used it with that signification, and the French have the expression (not slang) "avoir à son croc," to have in store; "vivre aux crochets de quelqu'un," to be dependent on another for one's living, to live at his expense, and the obsolete "diner sur ses crochets," to pay for one's own dinner.

Again, it has been suggested that *on one's own hook* is from a metaphor drawn from the practice of the fish-curers on the Eastern coasts, who hang up the herrings and haddocks to dry in the sun.

Hookem snivey, an impostor who feigns sickness, disease, or calamity, and exhibits his miseries in the streets to excite pity and charity. From *to hook*, and *snivelling*, or possibly from the gypsy *hookaben*, a cheat.

Hooks (thieves), fingers. Termed also "forks."

With his smeller a trumpet blowing,
A regular swell cove lushy lay,
To his clies my *hooks* I throw in,
Tol, lol, &c.,
And collar his dragons clear away.
—*W. Maginn: Vidocq's Slang Song.*

(Common), "gone off the *hooks*," dead.

Death wandered by the sea,
And struck by Walton's looks,
Broke Isaac's line of life
And took him "off the *hooks*."
—*Punch.*

An allusion to a gate off its hinges. Compare with the old English phrase, "to be off the *hooks*," to be out of temper, vexed. French, "sortir de ses gonds," and "to put off the *hooks*," to vex, make angry.

Hook shop (American), a brothel, "hooker" being a prostitute. Much used by English residents in China. Possibly a corruption of "hock shop." The English and French slangs have the corresponding "buttocking shop" and "magasin de fesses."

Hook, to sling one's (popular), to depart, leave, run away; *sling* is a provincialism for to cast away, so that the phrase means literally "take your hook off," "let go your hold."

Hook, to take one's (common), to depart, leave, run away.

A STRANGE TIME-KEEPER.—*Landlord* (to old toper, who has come to the front door, and is gazing intently at an equestrian statue in the square): "I say, what do you keep coming to the door for?" "I want to see if it's time to *take my hook*." "But how can you see that?" "When that horse begins to prance, then it's high time."—*Tit Bits.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Possibly an abbreviation of "take your *hook* off," that is, let go your hold, or the allusion being to a boat's hook which a man would naturally be told to take off as a signal for departure. This supposition is strengthened by the synonymous expression to "sling one's *hook*," which see.

Hook, with a (common), used in this phrase to imply doubt or some reservation referring to an assertion; "yes, with a *hook* at the end of it." Dr. Brewer has "*with a hook at the end*, you suppose I assent, but my assent is not likely to be given. The subject has a *hook*, or note of interrogation (?), to denote that it is dubious."

"There is a gypsy story that a Romany had permission from a gentleman to fish in his pond, on condition that he should only use a hook. But the gypsy used a net, and emptied the pond of fish. On being asked what kind of a hook he had used, he replied: 'It was what we call in our language a *hookaben*,' *i.e.*, a lie or a cheat. *Hook* is here the root, *aben* or *apen* simply indicating a noun" (C. G. Leland).

Hooky, to do (popular), the application of the thumb and fingers to the nose in contempt.

Hoop (American thieves), a ring.

Hoosier (American), a nickname given to natives of Indiana. Bartlett cites from the *Providence Journal* a story which has the appearance of being an after-manufacture to suit the name, deriving *hoosier* from "husher," "from their primary capacity to still their opponents." He also asserts that the Kentuckians maintained that the nickname expresses the exclamation of an Indianian when he knocks at a door and exclaims "who's yere?" However, the word originally was not *hoosier* at all, but *hoosieroon* or *hoosheroon*, *hoosier* being an abbreviation of this. I can remember that in 1834, having read of *hoosiers*, and spoken of them, a boy from the West corrected me, and said that the word was properly *hoosieroon*. This would indicate a Spanish origin (Charles G. Leland).

Ofttimes when travelling in the West,
The stranger finds a *hoosier's* nest;
In other words a buck-eye cabin,
Just large enough to put Queen Mab in.

Hooter (American), a comparative for anything worthless or trifling. Bartlett conjectures that it is a corruption of *iota*, which is also commonly used in New England in a similar manner.

Ah, Billy, you and your sword-cane can't do a *hooter* among the girls, fine as you think yourself.—*Philadelphia Comic Newspaper.*

Hooting pudding (provincial), plum pudding so scantily furnished with raisins that they are sarcastically said to hoot at one another.

H.O.P. (popular), hop; on the *hop*, unawares.

Oh, he's tricky, very tricky,
His conduct's very often rather slicky,
He never lets folks catch him on the *H.O.P.*
Oh, he's clicky, and he's quicky, and he's tricky.
—*Broadside Ballad.*

Hop (common), a small ball, though often used in reference to any kind of ball. Formerly "to hoppe" signified to dance.

I remember last Christmas, at a little *hop* at the Park, he danced from eight o'clock till four.—*Miss Austen: Sense and Sensibility.*

Said to be of American origin. The *New York Herald* once, if not many times, published accounts of the particular and unfashionable balls given in that city under the heading or caption of "Hop Intelligence." *Hop* for any kind of dance is, however, provincial English.

(Pidgin), half. "My giveecum-shaw *hop*-dolla, supposey you make dat Ink-i-lis man wailo to look-see my shop." *Hop*, have, or has. While a Chinese is in the first stage of pidgin-English, as set forth in that primary work, the Chinese "Vocabulary of the Words in Use among the Red-Haired People," he uses *hop*, and in time advances to *hab*. In this work *hop-fasze* is given for have fashion (*hab fasson* at a more advanced stage), *i.e.*, fashionable. *Hop-pi-tsin* (*hab pidgin*) means have business; *hop-tai* (*hab die*), dead; and *hop-time* (*hab time*), leisure.

Hop and go kick (tailors), one who walks lame.

Hop merchant (common), a dancing-master.

Hopped over the broom (popular), married or run away together. From an old belief that a marriage was legal if the bride and bridegroom stepped or *hopped over a broom.*

"The girl that I had hoped to hear,
Pronounce my happy doom, sir,
Had bolted with a carpenter,
In fact, *hopped o'er the broom*, sir."
—*David Dove: A Ballad by L. M. Thornton.*

Hopper (sporting), to go a *hopper*, to go at a fast pace.

The latter is a filly out of Effie Deans, and with two such smart parents she ought to be able to go a *hopper.*—*The County Gentleman.*

(Anglo-Indian), a colloquial term in Southern India for rice cakes. Tamil, *appam.*

Appas, called *hoppers* by the English, supply their morning repast.—*Tennent: Ceylon.*

Hopping giles (provincial), a cripple. St. Giles was the patron saint of cripples.

Hoppo (pidgin), the Chinese Superintendent of Customs at Canton. Giles says, "The term is said to be a corruption of *hoo poo*, the Board of Revenue" (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

Hop the Charlie, to (common), to decamp.

Hop the twig, to (common), to die. Like a bird which drops from its perch.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES INDIA

The English mode of execution divides itself into two branches, on both of which the victims must *hop the twig.—Diprose: Laugh and Learn.*

Hora (gypsy), an hour, a watch.

Horn (American). "Yes, in a *horn*." This is uttered as an expression of disbelief or refusal. "In a hog's *horn*," as hogs have no horns. An abbreviation of an old West of England phrase, "In a *horn* when the devil is blind." "I'll give it you in a *horn*," *i.e.*, I shall not give it you, possibly alluding to the impossibility of keeping anything in a horn open at both ends, or to the wind blown out of a horn.

Horn, a dram, a glass of spirits. The word dates from the times when *horns* rather than glasses were used for the purpose. It is almost obsolete in England, but common in America.

He poured out a glass of brandy and water. Oh, gummy, what a *horn* it was. It was strong enough to throw an ox over a five-barred gate.—*Sam Slick.*

Horness (American thieves), a watchman.

Hornswoggle, to (American), to humbug, delude, seduce, &c. (English provincial), *swokel*, deceitful; *swodgel*, *futuere*.

Horrors (society), delirium tremens. Derived from the fits of horror of imaginary things men have in that condition.

And Mostyn—poor Frank
Mostyn—died at last a fearful wreck,
In the *horrors* at the upper Wandinong.
—*Lyndsey Gordon: Poems.*

Horse collar (old), to die in a *horse collar* or nightcap, to be hanged. (Tailors), an extremely long and wide collar.

Horse coppers (American). This term is specially applied to men who cheat people by selling broken-down, but once first-class horses.

Horse editor (American). In the United States not only the manager or proprietor and director of a newspaper is called an editor, but also all who write for it, the chief reporter being "the city editor," and the reviewer "the literary editor," while the gentleman who furnishes the sporting news is sometimes facetiously termed the *horse editor*. There is also the real or imaginary "fighting editor," who is supposed to be a man who "strikes from the shoulder" and sits surrounded by revolvers and hunting knives. According to *Puck*, even the porter of an American newspaper shares the glory of "editorialism." The writer in fact knows an instance in which the janitor of an American journal, when in a rural community, received much attention and honour as being "connected with the press."

Horse flesh (printers), an ancient term, according to Moxon, for "dead horse," which see.

Horse-godmother (common provincial), a fat vulgar virago, a

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

very masculine woman, quite of the lowest class.

In woman angel sweetness let me see,
No galloping *horse-godmother* for me.
—*Wolcot* (*Peter Pindar*).

Horse protestant (tailors), a churchman.

Horse-shoe (common), the *pudendum f.* In the earliest Oriental mythologies, all that indicated fruitfulness, impregnation, love, &c., was regarded as opposed to the evil principle which sought to cause barrenness. Hence in many countries, not only the images of the pallus and of the female organ were worn as charms, but also everything which in any way resembled them, such as a horn, a perforated stone, a ring, a snail-shell, &c. Among these symbols the *horse-shoe* occupies a conspicuous place. Hence the belief that it forms an amulet, and that it is lucky to find one. In German the phrase "Sie hat ein Hufeisen verloen" (she has lost a *horse-shoe*) is equivalent to saying that a girl has been seduced.

Horse-teeth (American), a man with *horse-teeth* is one that grasps, grabs at, or gains what he aims at.

"Who is that?" I asked of my friend Fisher, as we passed a marked-looking man on the street the other day.

"That?" responded Fisher. "Why, that is So-and-so; great man and full of money. Got *horse-teeth*. That's the kind of man to succeed here."—*Detroit Free Press.*

Horse, the old (prison), for Horsemonger Lane Gaol, built at the suggestion of John Howard, closed 1878.

Horsey (common) applies to men who are great lovers of the horse or who affect a turf appearance and conversation. Also to articles of dress which in cut and style recall those of turfites or persons whose occupations are connected with the horse.

Hospital sheep (up-country Australian), sheep suffering from some contagious disease which necessitates their removal from the rest.

They had passed some miles back a small *gunyah* and yard temporarily occupied by a flock of *hospital sheep*, shipheaded by an old black gin.—*A. C. Grant: Bush Life in Queensland.*]

Hoss (American, Western), a brave, excellent man.

"Well, old fellow, *you're a hoss*" is a Western expression which has grown into a truism as regards Judge Allen, and a finer specimen of a Western judge, to use his constituents' language, "ain't no whar." . . . They consider him one of the people, none of your stuck-up imported chaps from the dandy states, but a real genuine Westerner—in short, a *hoss.*—*Americans at Home.*

Hoss-fly (American), "old *hoss-fly*," a familiar form of expression, such as "Well, old boy!" in England. It is of course a variation of "horse," as meaning a man.

Says I, "Billson, yer hav'n't got a well-balanced mind." Says he, "Yes, I have, old *hoss-fly* (he was a low cuss)—yes, I have. I have a mind that balances in any direction that the public rekires.'—*Artemus Ward: The Prince of Wales.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Hot (popular), exuberant in spirits, rowdy, full of extravagance and fun, "a warm one." A *hot* 'un, a fast man or woman. One who goes the pace.

She's what Shakspeare might call "a pure, unadulterated, red-*hot*, clinking scorcher." She's so *hot* that when she takes a walk out in November all the coal merchants shut up shop, fancying it is June.—*Music Hall Song: Why don't you be steady, Maria.*

(Society), a *hot* member of society is a man or woman who does not much care what he or she does, and sets most rules of decorum and morality on one side.

(Thieves), to give *hot* beef, *vide* BEEF.

Hot coppers. *Vide* COPPERS.

Hottentot (popular), a fool, a simpleton.

Hottentots (East London), explained by quotation.

All this vast audience was purely local. Our advent, though our attire was a special get-up for the occasion, attracted instant attention, and the cry of *Hottentots* went round. *Hottentots* is the playful way in this district of designating a stranger, that is to say, a stranger come from the West. —*George R. Sims: How the Poor Live.*

Hot tiger (Oxford), a mixture of hot-spiced ale and sherry (Hotten).

Hot, to make it (common), to make it highly disagreeable.

The smaller youth is sent out of Court with a caution; but retribution, or stern justice, or Nemesis, *makes it hot* for the weeping lad.—*The Graphic.*

Hounslow Heath (rhyming slang), the teeth.

House-farmers, house-knackers (popular), a variety of the "sweater" tribe. Persons who let bad lodgings at a high rent to the poor.

Housemaid's knee (medical), a swelling over the knee-pan, due to the enlargement of a bursal sac which normally occupies that position.

House, the (Oxford University), Christ Church, Oxford. (Stock Exchange), the Stock Exchange. "The probable origin of the word *house*, as applied to the Stock Exchange, is as follows:—Previous to 1801, when the jobbers and brokers (in Government securities) assembled, for a short period, in the Rotunda of the Bank of England, a room was rented in a house facing Bartholomew Lane. When a member was not to be found in the Rotunda it was said 'he is over at *the house*.' At a later period, when the members moved into their own building, *house* now became a recognised term, which has continued in use until the present day" (Atkin's "House Scraps").

Hoveller (nautical), a beach thief.

How d'ye do (popular), a regular *how d'ye do*, a regular row all round. A regular mess or difficulty.

Howler, to go a (sporting), to lose heavy bets.

Howling (common), great; as in a *howling* swell, a *howling* cad.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

There was a *howling* crush going on outside the Law Courts.—*Sporting Times.*

Howling bags, a swell pair of trousers.

Hoxter (thieves), an inside pocket. Old English *oxter.*

No slourd *hoxter* my snipes could stay. —*Ainsworth.*

(Royal Military Academy), extra drill, a corruption of *extra.*

The *hoxter* consists in the painful ordeal of being compelled to turn out of bed at an early hour, and march up and down under the watchful eye of a corporal.—*Albert Barrère: Argot and Slang.*

Hubble-bubble, the Indian pipe, termed a "hookah," is thus designated, from the noise it makes when being smoked (Hotten).

Hubby (common), husband.

Item, one fair daughter, yclept Lara. Mrs. S. has great faith in her worthy *hubby*, and knows his book by heart.—*Modern Society.*

You may happen on the pier, at Brighton or elsewhere,
To stumble on a tart you think is tame;
And if you should accost her, and her acquaintance foster,
I really fail to see how you're to blame.
Should she ask you out to tea, why a Juggins you would be
The friendly invitation to ignore.
But your danger you'll perceive, should you when you turn to leave
Come across her *hubby* at the door.
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Huckleberry (American), jestingly used to mean a person or subject. "That is a *huckleberry* above me," that beats me.

"Dat's cheatin'," said 'Johnny. "I'se going to stay wid 'em till I graduate. Dere's more stories dat dey tell den you can find in de dime novels. Say, you fellows would be 'spired to hear about 'Liger going right up t'rough de clouds in a chariot of fire, wid no balloon, no nothin'. 'Liger just got in his chariot, cut 'er loose, and flew. Dat's wot kind of a *huckleberry* 'Liger was. And, remember, dis was thousands of years ago, before dere was any balloons."—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Hue, to (thieves), to belabour with a cudgel.

Huey (old cant), a town, a village.

Hugger mugger (nautical), in its Shakspearian bearing may have meant secretly, or in a clandestine manner, but its nautical application is to express anything out of order or done in a slovenly way.

Hum-box (popular), a pulpit. *Hum* is to cajole, deceive.

Well, you parish bull prig, are you for lushing Jacky, or pattering in the *hum-box?*—*Lytton: Pelham.*

Hummer (popular), a swaggerer.

"Isn't she a swell?"

A dashing young woman in gorgeous raiment went sailing by like a cutter in a thirty-mile-an-hour breeze. The sun shone down upon her and sent out from her magnificent diamond earrings and the mass of beads that covered her head and shoulders a thousand hues.

"C'rect, Cholly; she's a *hummer!*" said the first speaker's friend.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat.*

Humming, given by Hotten and others as a slang term, is a provincialism meaning strong as applied to drink, and heady, in which latter sense it explains itself.

NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF INDIA

Hump (common), to have the *hump*, to be low-spirited, distressed, mortified, alluding to the attitude of one who is cast down.

Break! break! break!
O ball on thy way to the stump.
So let's alter the law,
Without any more jaw,
Or you'll give an old buffer the *hump*.
—*Fred Gale: The Game of Cricket.*

"To have one's *hump* up," to be cross like a cat with its back set up. To *hump* is a provincialism meaning to grumble, and is used in the slangy sense of to spoil. In America to *hump* oneself is to prepare promptly for an attack.

Hump the swag, to (Australian), to carry one's luggage on one's back.

And you may often have to *hump your own swag*, for the able-bodied fellows who are standing about are probably too well off to care to earn your shilling.—*C. T.: Impressions of Australia* (*Blackwood's Magazine*).

Hums (old cant), the congregation in a church.

Hunker (American), one opposed to progress in politics, one opposed to progress in general.

Hunks. This word is given by Hotten and others as a slang term, but it is a recognised provincialism, meaning a miser.

Hunky (American), good, jolly; "everything went off *hunky*," went off well.

Hunt, in the (popular), regarded as admitted to a circle or society. "He is *in the hunt*," he is one of us.

Although we isn't aristocrats, we hold a quid or two, and are considered *in the hunt*. —*Sam Waghorn: The Merry Sandboy.*

Hunting (thieves), card-sharping.

Hurkaru (Anglo-Indian), a messenger.

Husband's tea (popular), weak tea.

I

I am not here (tailors), I don't feel inclined to work; or, I wish to be left alone.

Ictus (legal), a lawyer. A corruption of *juris consultus*.

Idea pot (thieves), the head; also called "knowledge-box."

I desire (rhyming slang), a fire.

If not, why not? (American), a peculiar colloquial expression, as "Will you take a drink—*if not, why not?*"

Personal—Has it ever occurred to you that there is a combination of "the brains," "the men," and "the money too" at 159 Washington Street? If so, don't you think that it would be to your interest to call round and have some talk with Bowyer, the expert in circular advertising? *If not, why not?*—*Chicago Tribune.*

Ignoramus Jury (old cant), formerly a slang name for a Grand Jury. When a bill was ignored,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

instead of writing across it "No true bill," the Latin word *ignoramus*, we do not know, was employed—hence the saying in question. "If you find that anything proceeds from envy and malice, and not of due prosecution, you may acquit the person that is so wrongfully prosecuted, and so justice is done between party and party, so an *Ignoramus Jury* may not be of no use."

I guess it's all turkey (American), a quaint saying indicating that all is equally good. It is said that an old gentleman who was asked at a Thanksgiving dinner if he preferred the white meat or dark of the standard dish, replied, "I don't care which; *I guess it's all turkey.*"

Ikey (popular), a Jew; a corruption of Isaac. Also said of any one who thinks himself knowing, smart, and has a great opinion of himself.

I'll eat my head (popular), variants. "I'll eat my hat" (some erroneously think hat here is a corruption of heart); "I'll eat my boots," "my head," &c. A boastful promise—an unmeaning way of expressing something impossible of achievement. Mr. Grimwig in "Oliver Twist" backed and confirmed nearly every assertion he made with this handsome offer.

> It was the more singular in his case because, even admitting, for the sake of argument, the possibility of scientific improvements being ever brought to that pass which will enable a man to *eat his own head* in the event of his being so disposed, Mr. Grimwig's head was such a particularly large one that the most sanguine man alive could hardly entertain a hope of being able to get through it at a sitting, to put entirely out of the question a very thick coating of powder.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Illegitimate (racing), an absurd formula used by the sporting press as a synonym for steeplechasing, hurdle-racing, and hunters' flat-races. Previous to the establishment of the Grand National Hunt Committee, these sports were unregulated by any code of law, and unrecognised by any racing tribunal, and were then properly regarded as *illegitimate*. They are now, however, as much under rules as flat-racing; nevertheless the term *illegitimate* continues to be applied to them though it has lost its force or significance.

Illegitimate season, also called the dead season, viz., the time between the weeks which includes the 22nd November in one year, and that which includes the 25th of March in the year following. No races under Newmarket rules are allowed during this period, which is obviously the most suitable for the other or so-called *illegitimate* branch of racing.

I'll have your gal! (street slang), a cry raised by street boys or roughs when they see a fond couple together. In like manner, in small theatres in Paris, the pit will raise a cry of "Il

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

l'embrassera!" when a man and woman are sitting together apart from others.

I proffered and she took my arm,
Which I thought would be refused;
I'll have your gal! the urchins cried,
At which I felt amused.
—*Ballad: The Thames Embankment.*

I'll have your hat (street cry).

There is a cry that drives me wild
Which is, *I'll have your hat!*
I'll have your hat! I'll have your hat!
Will be the death of me, that's flat,
It makes me feel so nervous that,
Whene'er they cry, *I'll have your hat!*
—*Broadside Ballad.*

I'll tell you a story of old Mother Morey (American), said sarcastically of a narrative which has nothing in it. From a very old nursery rhyme repeated to children when they are importunate to be told a story.

I'll tell you a story
Of old Mother Morey,
And now my story's begun
I'll tell you another,
About her brother,
And now my story is done.

Illumina (Winchester College), an abbreviation for "illumination." On the last Sunday night in "Short Half" before Grass Court was thrown open, candles were planted in temples or niches cut in Mead's wall. In this consisted the *illumina*. This is now done in "Short Half," and the effect is enhanced by a blazing bonfire.

I'm afloat (rhyming slang), a boat.

Im-koy (pidgin Cantonese), not ought, *i.e.*, you should not. Used politely in accepting or asking a civility.

Immediately sooner, if not before (American), a made-up phrase, heard occasionally among boys.

Immense (American), excellent, or extremely good. Such and such a person is said to be an "*immense* fellow," or liquor is advertised as *immense*, or a tailor notifies that he is "*immense* on pants," and a dressmaker that she is "*immense* on skirts," though she does not boast of being "*immense* in her charges."

Imp. The *imp* is the devil of the devil, or attorney-general's devils. There are many of them, and have no position whatever in the law. They only "devil," or get up cases for the junior counsel to the Treasury, though in doing this they often contrive to get work for themselves as well; thus there are many devils in the law.

Impo. or **impos.** (schools), abbreviation for imposition. At Cheltenham College both masters and boys call this an "impot."

Impost-taker (American thieves), a man who lends money to thieves and gamblers, or prostitutes, at very high rates of interest.

Improvers (trade), young men learning a business, and who enter into employment chiefly with a view to qualify themselves for work. *Vide* BUSTLE.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

In this establishment no juniors or *improvers* are kept, and all the medicines are prepared by the proprietor himself, and by a thoroughly competent assistant. —*Advertisement of a Chemist in Westgate-on-the-Sea.*

I'm something of a liar myself (American). It is said that a certain gentleman who was given to narrating extraordinary experiences, having on one occasion told a very remarkable incident of travel, then turned to a Scotchman who was present and asked him if he was not astonished. "Na, na," replied the Scot, "I'm na that—*I'm something of a leear mysel'.*" This saying has become of late (1887) extremely popular in the United States, and is repeated without mercy among "the ruder sort" whenever any one is suspected of playing Munchausen.

In (common), to be *in* with one, to be even with him, or be on intimate terms with him. *In* for it, in trouble or difficulty. (American), to be *in* it, a phrase expressive of taking an interest — pecuniary, personal, or mental—in anything. Like "I'm on it," "I'm *in* it," signifying that I have a part in the subject.

I won't listen to your noncents no longer. Jest say rite strate out what you're drivin at. If you mean gettin hitched, I'm *in*.—*Artemus Ward.*

A horse on publication of a handicap is said, in describing his prospective chance, to be *in* it, "not *in* it," or "right bang *in* it," according to the view and judgment of the speaker. The same terms are used during the progress of a race.

In a skiffle (tailors), in a great hurry.

In a tin-pot way (popular), in a small, inferior, trifling manner.

I light my long pipe and I sit up in bed, and don't we enjoy ourselves *in* our own *tin-pot way*?—*Wm. Barnes: Boozing Bill.*

In deep water (American), in pecuniary difficulties or in trouble.

From the statement of Mr. West's attorney it would seem that Elder has been *in deep water* for several months. His real estate was mortgaged for $5000.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Indescribables (society), trousers.

Indian mess (American), the mixing and eating all kinds of food.

Individualise, to (American), to identify a person, to indicate any one.

No lady of refinement uses perfume to excess. A delicate suggestion of an odour is a pretty way of *individualising* one, provided too many do not use the same perfume.—*Detroit Tribune.*

One may hear in the United States or read in the newspapers that persons are "individual in their orders," or habits, *i.e.*, peculiar.

Inexpressibles (society), a sham-modest expression for trousers.

Infantry (popular), children. The French have the slang expres-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

sion, "entrer dans l'infanterie!" to become pregnant. Light *infantry*, fleas.

Infa'r (American), a wedding festivity, feast, or party.

Bre'r Rabbit got one ev de gals, en dey had a weddin' en a big *infa'r.—Uncle Remus.*

In for patter (thieves), awaiting trial. *Vide* PATTER.

In for pound (thieves), committed for the assizes.

In good shape (American, and well known in England), to be "in good shape" is to be quite correct.

In Good Shape.—The total indebtedness of the City of Deadwood falls below $6000.—*American Newspaper.*

In his kish (tailors), quite at home and pleased.

In his shell (tailors), not in a talking mood, sulky, or compelled to retire.

Iniquity-office (American), inquiry offices or bureaux which advertise to find employment for governesses, servants, &c., and obtain situations for them on condition of receiving from twenty to thirty per cent. of their first year's wages. Such "affairs" are common in London, and many are even worse than the worst in New York.

Injun here! (American), a phrase often used jocosely when a man asserts that he has remained true to his principles. It is said that an Indian when lost in the woods and unable to find his wickee or wigwam, struck an attitude and exclaimed, "*Injun* no lost. Wickee lost—*Injun here!*"

Ink-e-li (pidgin), English; Mandarin, *ying-kuo.*

Inkslinger (common), a clerk, a journalist or reporter.

Edmund Yates went to see and partially eat at the Newspaper Press Fund Dinner; and thereat the majority of the toasts devolved on Lord Chief Justice Coleridge, who is not overburdened with reason for liking Edmund, who was to respond for the *inkslingers.—Sporting Times.*

Inky (tailors), a reply given to a question it is not desirable to answer. "Who told you that tale?" "*Inky.*" Slopcutter's term. Also used among booksellers, printers, &c., as an evasive answer.

Innocent (American thieves), a corpse, an idiot, or a convict.

Inside (pidgin-English), within, in, interior, heart, mind, soul, in the country. "You belongey smart *inside*," you are intelligent. A Chinese, many years ago, on being shown a picture of a locomotive, at once remarked, "Hab got too much plenty all-same *inside*," we have many such in the interior of China. On one occasion a Chinese said "Hab got one piecee man, one piecee girly room-*inside*." Room-*inside* means within.

Inside he mouth (pidgin-English), secretly in his mind, to himself,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

reserved. "Inside he heart" has the same meaning.

Inside squatter (Australian up-country), a squatter (*q. v.*) in a settled district, used in the wilder parts of Australia, the north of New South Wales, the northern territory, and especially Queensland. *Inside squatters* are those who reside within the margin of settlements, as distinguished from "pioneer" or "outside squatters."

Stations were formed for nearly a hundred and fifty miles outside John's Run, and he began to regard himself as quite an *inside squatter*. His neighbours greatly assisted him in keeping his cattle together, turning them back and sending over notice whenever they were discovered making away; and, in like manner, he performed the same good office for them. Things soon began to wear quite a settled look.—*A. C. Grant.*

Institution (American). Bartlett calls this a flash word of recent introduction as applied to any prevalent practice or thing. But it was so common as to attract the notice of Dickens on his first visit to the United States, since he made Martin Chuzzlewit inquire if spitting was an American *institution*.

Instruct out, to (American), originally and strictly "to remove from office, as a Member of Congress by instructions from a State Legislature" (Bartlett); popularly, to turn out in almost any way, especially by appeal to a higher authority.

If you don't git out of this place, you young pollution, afore to-morrow mornin', I guess you'll *be instructed* to evaporate from the boss himself—and he'll make it as hot for you as a Fourth Ward Meeting.—*How Silas Greenstick got to Congress.*

Interviewer (American), a term which began to come into general use about 1880, or earlier. It was applied to the visiting eminent (or any other) persons, by the reporters of newspapers, for the purpose of extracting information from them. Interviewing in the United States was developed into an art before the term crossed the water to England. But now the French journalists send their men to *interview* politicians.

At the recent Missouri Democratic Convention, each *interviewer* from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat wore a badge of white satin pinned to the coat lapel with a silver star, and bearing this legend:—

GLOBE-DEMOCRAT INTERVIEWING CORPS.
"I'll call thee Hamlet,
King, Father, Royal Dane. Oh, answer me,
Let me not burst in ignorance."

As he finished with his victim, each *interviewer* handed him a check, which he put in his hat-band, and thus evaded any further bother with the reporters. These checks were inscribed as follows:—

PUMPED.
Keep this check in your hat, and you will not be again disturbed by a reporter.
—*Chicago Tribune.*

This is what in American parlance may be called bringing interviewing "down to a fine point."

I returned to the United States after eleven years' absence, and found that many new things had sprung up during the time. One of these was "interviewing," which had been developed "to a high note,"

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

as I soon experienced. I was hardly at home before a young man came to take my portrait in writing. Oddly enough he was "on" a newspaper of which I had been managing editor for three years. Finding him clever and gentlemanly, but inexperienced, I proposed to *interview* myself for him, which I did, asking myself what I thought of the country, and so on. A few evenings later I delivered a lecture. At midnight another reporter called to work it up. I was in bed, but I remembered how sorry I should have been when I was on a newspaper to have missed anything, so I called him in, and he sat down by my bedside and phonographed away, while I gave him the points. Well, as Dumas says of life in Naples, "It is 'sbirro' one day, and 'lazarone' the next," at one time sending forth interviewers and then being interviewed.—*C. G. Leland: Journal.*

In the buff (tailors), stripped.

In the cart (common), to be *in the cart*, is to be defrauded, sorely disappointed. *Vide* CART.

In showing a photo, 'tis wise to reflect
That the girl may have no taste for art,
So see that the cabinet's fairly correct,
Or you may find yourself *in the cart*.
—*Sporting Times.*

In the crook or **click** (tailors), in the act of cutting.

In the hole (printers). This term is applied to a compositor when he is behind-hand in closing up his copy, and his companions that have taken subsequent copy await the closing-up of his portion, that the making-up into pages may proceed.

In the know (common), the expression explains itself. *Vide* KNOW, IN THE.

Chance brought me into collision with an old friend who did a little in the dramatic line for one or two newspapers, and who was generally supposed to be *in the know*, as to most things connected with metropolitan play-houses.—*Town Talk.*

In the rags (tailors), in trouble, disputing, or in disgrace.

In the slash (tailors), fighting

In the straw (common), said of married ladies when accouched. Hotten is wrong in saying this phrase is coarse in origin and metaphor, whatever it may be now. It is in reality very old, and dates back to the days when all beds were stuffed with straw. Even the highest and most exalted in position—Henry VIII., for example—lay upon straw, for Brand tells us that "there were directions for certain persons to examine every night the straw of the king's bed, that no daggers might be concealed therein."

In the swim. Hotten limits this to being in a run of luck, or in a good *swim*, because anglers are in luck when they find a *swim* or "school" of fish. But of late the term is applied entirely to being what the French call "dans le mouvement" (slang equivalent, "dans le train"), in with the world, in the current excitements, speculations, ideas, and interests of the age.

In the wind (nautical), intoxicated.

Intimate (American thieves), a shirt.

Into (popular), to be, walk, slip, drop *into*, to attack one, fight

NATIONAL ARCHIVES INDIA

him. (American), short of, wanting, as "It was all right *into* a yard missing," "I found the account correct *into* four cents."

I thought I did pretty well deliverin' all the load *into* one box. Considerin' I'd come as nigh into losin' the hull cargo, I guessed it was pretty well. But when Zekiel Hill missed that box he was in an awful takin'. He swore a lot of oaths as long as a kite-string, and sent 'em ascending up to heaven like unto the same.—*How Silas Greenstick got to Congress.*

Inturn (American), the inside track in a race, the advantage at a start.

Dis kinder tarrify Brer Rabbit, en he skasely know what he gwine to do; but bimeby he study ter hissef dat de man w'at see Brer Fox fuss wuz boun' ter have de *inturn*.—*Uncle Remus.*

Invitations to drink (American). The following expressions are all stamped, endorsed, and approved in drinking circles:—

Invitations.

What'll you have?
Nominate your pizen!
Will you irrigate?
Will you tod?
Wet your whistle?
How'll you have it?
Let us stimulate!
Let's drive another nail!
What's your medicine?
Will ye du trinken?
Try a little anti-abstinence?
Swy (zwei) Lager!
Your whisky's waiting.
Will you try a smile?
Will you take a nip?
Let's get there.
Try a little Indian?
Suck some corn-juice?

Responses.

Here's into your face!
Here's how!
Here's at you!
Don't care if I do.
Well, I will.
I'm thar!
Accepted, unconditionally.
Well, I don't mind.
Sir, your most.
Sir, your utmost.
You do me proud!
Yes, sir-ree!
With *you*—yes!
Anything to oblige.
On time.
I'm with you.
Count me in.
I subscribe.

—*C. Leland Harrison: MS. Americanisms.*

I. P. (legal), a corruption of *in personam*, an expression very common among the Old Bailey barristers. It is a defence from the prisoner or his friends given direct to counsel without the intervention of a solicitor.

Irish cockney (popular), a child born of Irish parents in any part of the southern counties of England (Hotten). "You're Irish!" is a common phrase when a child or person is saying something not quite intelligible to the listener.

Irish, Indian, Dutch (American), all of these words are used to signify anger or arousing temper. But to say that one has his "*Indian* up," implies a great degree of vindictiveness, while *Dutch* wrath is stubborn but yielding to reason.

Irishman's harvest (costermongers), the orange season.

Irishman's rise (tailors and common), wages reduced.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Irish theatre (military), a guard-room or lock-up in barracks.

Iron (mechanics), bad *iron*, used in reference to any bad affair, failure of any kind.

Ironclads, baked pies, so called from the armour-plated consistencies of the outside crust. Of American origin. During the Civil War *ironclad* was applied to everything well defended or hard. An "*ironclad* oath." A severely virtuous girl was an *ironclad*.

Iron cow, the pump; so called by the milk dealers of London because it provides them with the water for what is sometimes called the stretching—that is, the dilution and adulteration—of the milk which they supply to their defrauded customers.

Iron face (pidgin), stern, obdurate, cruel, severe; Cantonese, *teel meen;* Mandarin, *t'eeaylayeen.* "He makee my one *ilon face*, too-muchee bad heart he hab got."

Iron making (popular), occupying a berth or billet in which money is to be put by.

Ironsides (nautical), formerly a sobriquet for favourite, veteran men-of-war, but latterly applied to iron and ironclad ships (Admiral Smyth).

Irrigate, to (American), to drink, to take liquor or refreshment; a synonymous expression is "to smile." Of Mexican frontier origin.

Irrigate your canal (American). This is becoming common in England as an invitation to take a drink.

Stumbling across a barrel of ale in the house, and feeling a little thirsty, Joseph thought he had found an excellent opportunity for *irrigating his alimentary canal.—Sunday Times.*

Isabella (rhyming slang), an umbrella.

I saw, I seen him (American), a Western phrase implying agreement, harmony, or good fellowship.

He was drunk, but *I seen him* all the same. "Come and have a drink," says I. —*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

I say (pidgin). "The Chinese mob used to call the English soldiers *A'says* or *I says*, from their frequent use of the expression. The French gamins used to do the same in Boulogne. At Amoy the Chinese used to call out after foreigners, *Akee, akee!* a tradition from the Portuguese *aqui*, 'Here!' In Java the French are called by the natives *Orang-deedong, i.e.*, the *dites-donc* people" (Anglo-Indian Glossary). It is not unusual for common people in England and America to call Frenchmen "ding-dongs" from the same words, and in the latter country boys cry after Germans *Nix cum arouse!* and *Wie gehts!* and greet Italians as "Johnny Dagos" (*vide* DAGO).

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Is his giblets in? (American), is he all right? From a coarse story.

Ishkimmisk (tinkers), drunk; Gaelic, *misgeach.*

I should smile (American). In this phrase a strong accent is laid on "should." It comes comes from such expressions as "Well, I *should* think!" which are often left incomplete, but which, when completed would be "that he ought to be ashamed," or "that people would know better," &c. Its general meaning is an intimation of surprise, or mild contempt. It is much used by women, and is believed to have originated in the suburbs of Boston or in Brooklyn, New York.

We asked Joe Capp the other day,
And asked it without guile,
"If asked to drink, what would you say?"
He answered: "*I should smile.*"
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Isle of Fling (east end), coat.

Isle of France (rhyming slang), a dance.

Istubbul (Anglo-Indian). "This usual Hindu word for stable may naturally be imagined to be a corruption of the English word. But it is really the Arab *istabl*, though that no doubt came in old times from the Latin *stabulum* through some Byzantine Greek form" (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

I suppose (rhyming slang), the nose.

Itchland (popular), Scotland, alluding to the ailment caused by a diet of oatmeal.

Items (American thieves), in gamblers' slang, looking at a party's hand and conveying to an opposition player by signs what it contains. A looking-glass is sometimes used, or else signs.

It goes (American), it is all right I agree with you, it is well.

"Come into the ranch and have a drink, Sam," says I. "A drink *goes*," says he.

It takes the gloss off (tailors), it takes away the profit, or materially detracts from its value.

Ivories (popular), the teeth.

These ones object to learning lengthy parts; rehearsals bore them, and stage managers are notoriously anything but angels. One damsel possesses nice arms, another is blessed with a swan-like neck, a third rejoices in a set of lovely *ivories*, and a fourth has a particularly neat ankle. —*Modern Society.*

"To flash your *ivories*," to show your teeth; "to wash your *ivories*," to drink. Also dice. (Billiards), the balls. "The *ivories* run badly for him," the game is against him, or, he has no luck. (Card-players), checks and counters.

Promptly Murat placed by the side of Halsey's chips a column of *ivories* twice as high. It was a raise and up to the limit —*Bird o' Freedom.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

J

J PUT after a judge's name, being an abbreviation for Justice, thus Denman J. Also an abbreviation for "jay" or "juggins."

Up! punters and pencillers, hie ye away
To the slopes that are crowded on gay Derby day.
Stream forth in your thousands from hamlets and towns
To Epsom's bepeopled and booth-dotted Downs.

Up! flat-catching magsmen and boys of that ilk,
On the warpath the *J* of his ooftish to milk.
"Here's a quid for the man who will turn up the knave!"
Here's a snip for those "sports" who the bookie would brave.
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Jab, to (English and American), to poke, or stick with any instrument, commonly spelt job, is mostly used in this sense.

Tom: Yes. You remember that Cæsar held out against the gang until he saw Brutus trying *to jab* him, and then he just said, "Et tu Brute!" and covered up his face with his mantle.—*Republican.*

Jabber, to, a word frequently but vulgarly used in England, and still oftener in America, to mean not to speak badly, but to talk any foreign language whatever, even though it be done correctly.

At once the bird started *to jabber* Italian, and had quite a conversation with the man. —*Savannah Morning News.*

To jabber, in the sense of to talk indistinctly, is a perfectly recognised word.

Jabble sea (nautical), a choppy, nasty sea.

Jack (American). It is common among schoolboys in Philadelphia to address a stranger as *Jack*, and also to speak of a blunderer or stupid fellow as a *Jack*—an abbreviation of jackass.

"Where do you come from?" asked a Dallas man of a neighbour. "I'm just from the fair-grounds." "Have the judges of live stock awarded the prize to the biggest *Jack?*" "They have." "Did my uncle or my father get it?" "Neither of them. A strange donkey from Eastern Texas got the prize."—*Texas Siftings.*

(American thieves), a small coin. In England a counter.

Jackaroo (up-country Australian), the name by which young men who go to the Australian colonies to pick up colonial experience are designated (Grant's "Bush Life.") Like *bossaroo*, a slang word coined on the model of kangaroo.

Jack cove (American thieves), a mean, low, small fellow. From *Jack*, any very trifling coin or a counter.

Jacketing (common), a thrashing. From the phrase, "to dust one's jacket."

Jacket-reverser (common), a new word for turncoat.

Jackey (popular), gin; called also "old Tom."

I've snuff and tobacco, and excellent *Jackey;*
I've scissors, and watches, and knives,
I've ribbons and lace to set off the face
Of pretty young sweethearts and wives.
—*W. S. Gilbert: H.M.S. Pinafore.*

Jack gagger (American thieves), a man who lives on the prostitution of his wife. A "ponce."

Jack-in-a-box (old cant), a sharper who robbed tradesmen by substituting empty boxes for others full of money.

This *Jacke-in-a-boxe*, or this divell in man's shape . . . comes to a goldsmith's stall . . . where he knowes good store of silver faces are to be seene.—*Dekker: English Villanies.*

Jack-in-the-box (thieves), a small but powerful kind of screw, used by burglars to break open safes. Also a kind of firework.

Jack-in-the-dust (nautical), the steward's mate.

Jack-in-the-pulpit (American), a man who obtrudes himself into a place for which he is unfitted; as, for instance, an ignorant fellow who pretends to preach or teach that of which he knows nothing.

The latest contribution to the history of the Rebellion is from the pen of that eminent truth-teller, Don Piatt. In "Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln," between the covers of which he has been allowed to obtrude, he says of himself: "My one act made Maryland a free State." Of Mr. Lincoln he says: "The President never forgave me." That was because you escaped his memory entirely, Mr. *Jack-in-the-pulpit.*—*Chicago Tribune*, May 29, 1886.

The simile or term is equivalent to the English "Jack-in-office."

Jack-in-the-water (popular), an attendant at the watermen's stairs, on the river and seaport towns, who does not mind wetting his feet for a customer's convenience (Hotten).

Jacks (thieves), superior counterfeit coin.

'Arry gave me five of the best, and 'ow in the world them quids come to be snide blessed if I know, though probably somebody 'ad chucked 'em away for safety. They wasn't *Jacks*, mind, but reglar wrong 'uns, and—but, unless I'm mistaken, this 'ere station's Fulwell—by leave, sir——
—*Sporting Times.*

Jack-shay (up-country Australian), a tin quart pot used for boiling tea in, and contrived so as to hold it within a tin pint pot.

The party, therefore, carry with them a light blanket apiece, stowed away in the folds of which is each man's supper and breakfast. Hobbles and *Jack-shays* hang from the saddle-dees. The bust is as full of life as ever.—*A. C. Grant.*

Jack Sprat (common), a diminutive boy or man.

Jack the painter (up-country Australian), a much adulterated green tea used in the bush.

Another notorious ration tea of the bush is called *Jack the painter* a very green tea indeed, its viridity evidently produced by a discreet use of the copper drying-pans in its manufacture.—*Lieut.-Colonel Munday: Our Antipodes.*

Jack up, to (Australian), to throw up, to abandon; very probably

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

a corruption of "chuck." *Jack it up* is generally an expression of disgust, *e.g.*, when a whist-player finds his partner's hand as bad as his own, and tells him to lay down his cards.

Says I, "Let's *Jack up*, man alive, an' try further down on the Creek." "All right!" says my mate, "but we'll drive right an' left to the end of this week."—*Garnet Walch: A Little Tin Plate.*

Jade (American thieves), a long term of imprisonment.

Jadoo (Anglo-Indian), conjuring, magic, hocus-pocus. Persian-Hind. *jadū*.

Jadoogur (Anglo-Indian), Hind. *jadūghar*, conjuring-house.

"This is the term commonly applied by the natives to a Freemason's Lodge, when there is one at an English station. On the Bombay side it is called a *Shaitan khana*, a devil's house, a name consonant to the ideas of an Italian priest, who intimated to one of the present writers that he had heard the raising of the devil was practised at Masonic meetings, and asked his friend's opinion as to the fact. In Southern India the lodge is called *Talai-vetta-kovil*, or 'Cut-head-temple,' because part of the rite of initiation is supposed to consist in the candidate's head being cut off and put on again" (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

"It is worth remarking, in connection with the imagined mysteries and sorceries of the Freemasons' lodges, that while the theosophists of England believe that untold marvels of magic are practised in India, the Hindoos on the other hand are all firm in the faith that foreigners, and especially Englishmen, excel in the black art, and live in daily secret intercourse with devils of all denominations. 'What cometh from afar aye pleases best.' In popular folk-lore, the witches and fairies always live far away beyond the blue mountains, and goblins and satyrs must be looked for in the wilderness, in all cases anywhere but at home" (Charles G. Leland).

Jag (American), a fancy, a whim; also intoxication, *e.g.*, "jagged," drunk, or "to have a *jag* on."

He's got a *jag* that there's money buried in his place, but I don't believe that he'll ever get back the money he's spent diggin' for it.—*Newspaper Clippings.*

Jagger (popular), a gentleman.

Jah (freemason), contraction of Jehovah, used in the R.A. degree.

Jail-khana (Anglo-Indian), an English-Indian word for "jail," used in the Bombay Presidency.

Jakes (old slang), a privy, a water-closet, a place of convenience.

Jam, real (turf), one of the almost innumerable synonyms for a turf certainty. *Real jam* has been the cause of many wry faces. The expression is not as much in vogue as formerly. *Real jam* is used by other classes of

people to express excellence, so also "true marmalade."

Jamboree (American), a word which would appear to be Anglo-Indian or gypsy, referring to something very nice or pleasant, but which is only used in the United States for a jollification or frolic, *e.g.*, to go on a regular *jam-* or sometimes *jim-boree*. *Jam-* or *jan-borī* in gypsy conveys the idea of a great riot or noise, and the origin of *jam* as signifying anything very apt or agreeable is still obscure. There is really very little ground, however, for the Romany origin of the word. The negroes sang curious songs, like the following :—

Sally, she went down de ribber,
Jambree!
Black man see her gwane dar,
Jambree!
Sally's face it shine like gold,
Jambree!
Black man's face like tar,
Jambree!

The term is now used in England.

They had met, and it was in the Strand last Wednesday morning.

"Ah, laddie, how goes it?"

"Very seedy, deaf old boy. There was a bit of a *jamboree* last night, and I'm quite in a chippy way this morning."—*Sporting Times.*

James (thieves), a crowbar, a dignified form of the term "jemmy" for the same. French thieves have the corresponding *Jacques.*

We went to Willesden and found a dead un, so I came out and asked my pal to lend me the *james* and some twirls, and I went and turned it over.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Also a sovereign.

Make this man leave me alone; he is knocking me about, and I put a half *james* in his hand, and said guy.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Jammy. *Vide* JAM, REAL.

He was callow, and was diffident of entering the ring;
To his joy a chance acquaintance put him on a *jammy* thing;
He tumbled on perceiving that his quids had taken wing,
That he wasn't on a "smasher."
—*Sporting Times.*

Jampot (Australian), applied to the very high, highly starched stand-up collars affected by dandies, sometimes as much as four inches high.

When I was staying at Queenscliff, the fashionable watering-place of Melbourne, I was standing at a hotel-bar with a young colonial named C——, who was a dressy man, and was wearing one of these collars. The conversation turned upon the number of Jews who were staying in the hotel. "Oh, blow these Jutes," he said, "they stuff the whole place up; it's as bad as the New Jerusalem."

"Why, ain't you one yourself?" asked the barmaid, who was not so well educated as Australian barmaids generally are.

"Me a Jute! why, what makes you ask that, Mary?"

"The collar. No one but Jews wears them *jampots* now."—*D. B. W. Sladen.*

Janasmug (thieves), a go-between; one who was intermediary between a thief and the "fence," or receiver of stolen goods. An old word, from "janus," *i.e.*, double-faced.

Japanese knife trick, the (common), to eat, or shovel one's

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

food down with a knife, instead of conveying it to the mouth in an orthodox fashion with a fork. To eat peas with a knife is to do *the Japanese knife trick.* The saying probably arises from the similarity of both the chop-sticks one to another, these articles being equivalent to the knife and fork amongst the Japanese—hence the parallel suggested between the indiscriminate use of the knife and fork, in the same manner as takes place in regard to the chop-sticks.

Japanned (University), explained by quotation.

Many . . . step . . . into the Church, without any pretence of other change than in the attire of their outward man—the being *japanned,* as assuming the black dress and white cravat is called in university slang. —*College Words and Customs.*

Japanning (popular), explained by quotation.

He applied himself to a process which Mr. Dawkins designated as "*japanning* his trotter-cases." The phrase, rendered into plain English, signifieth, cleaning his boots.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Jārifa, jārika, jallico, &c. (gypsy), an apron. The variations of this word are numerous.

Jarrehoe (Wellington College), a man-servant.

Jarvey (common), the driver of a hackney coach.

After listening to two Lonnens singing two Killaloes, he called a cab.
"Where to, sir?" asked the *jarvey.*
"Gaiety buffet."

And he is now willing to bet that he had the cheapest and quickest cab drive on record.—*Sporting Times.*

Jaw (popular), talking.

"No more *jaw,* I tell you," said the first boy, who was stronger than Jerry Pape. "Come on home" (this to me, with a lug that made my shoulder-joints crack.) "I shouldn't like to go you halves, my tulip. I 'spect you'll be werry nigh killed wen yer father does get hold on yer."—*Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins.*

Hold your *jaw,* stop your *jaw,* stop talking.

Four-and-twenty of us sat round a table mending soldiers' shirts and convicts' stockings. Notwithstanding the frequent commands of "stop that *jaw,*" we discussed many matters of law and prison discipline.—*Evening News.*

Jawbone (Canadian), credit; to "call his jaw," to live on credit.

This picture of work and health and happiness has its darker side, and nowhere a sadder one than where the wages of perhaps a whole year pass into the hands of a professed gambler, and the hundreds of dollars, which might have been so profitably invested, are squandered in the poor excitement of an evening at euchre, faro, or draw poker; and his ready money gone he has nothing to live on but *jawbone, i.e.,* credit, and to *call his jaw, i.e.,* live on credit, till he has got further employment and more wages.—*A. Staveley Hill: From Home to Home.*

Jaw-breakers (common), hard words to pronounce.

Jawing tackle (nautical), organs of speech.

Jaw, jao! (Anglo-Indian), go, to go. English gypsy *jaw* or *jā.*

Jaw, to (popular), to talk much, but especially to scold, complain.

The day that I got married was the ruin of my life,
She said I wasn't fit to be the husband of a wife,
She *jawed* and *jawed* all day and night and upset all the place,
Then knocked me down upon my back and jumped upon my face.
—*Song.*

Jaw, to go, common among tramps or travellers, *e.g.*, to *jaw* on the toby or drum, to go on the road. From the Romany *jāva*, I go. Sometimes heard as *jāl*, from *jāla*, he goes. Also Anglo-Indian *jao!* go!

Jaw twister (common), a hard or many-syllabled word (Hotten).

Jay (American), a contemptuous word for a person. A sham "swell," a simpleton. *Vide* To FLAP.

Spose you was runnin' reglar out of Atchison, or somewhere else in the cowboy country! Why, these *jays* ain't a circumstance to 'em.—*Philadelphia Press.*

"*Jay*-hawker" was a term applied to marauders during the Kansas troubles, and extended to other bandits.

This was a heavier blow to the boy than the corporeal ones, and he vowed to regain his property at any cost; but the bandits were not easily come at by a single foe. In fact, the "*jay*-hawkers," as they pleasantly dubbed themselves, augmented their ranks every day.—*Buffalo Bill.*

"To play one for a *jay*," to make a dupe of. Any word equivalent to ignoramus or dolt may be substituted for *jay*.

"I'm a plain man!" he said, as he strode into the reporters' room, and shook the icicles from his whiskers. "I'm a plain-everyday-man, with no book-larnin' to speak of, but I don't propose to let no one-hoss grocer's clerk *play me for a jay*." —*Chicago Tribune.*

Jeff (printers). The act of throwing with the quadrats as one would with dice. Nine em quadrats (usually of pica body) are selected, shaken up in the hand, and thrown on an imposing surface. Three "throws" are allowed to each player, and only the quadrats that fall with their nicks uppermost are counted. This system is generally adopted for determining the share of good or bad work at the end of a volume, and sometimes it is used as a means of gambling.

Jelly, or all jelly (popular), a buxom, good-looking girl.

Jem (old cant), a ring.

Jemima (common), a chamber utensil. *Thomas* in French slang.

Jemini! O Jeminy! By Jimmeny! (popular), a current interjection, also well known in Holland. Teirlinck, in his Dictionary of Bargoensch, says that "Jemenis is merely a variation of Jesus! We still hear Jemenis! Jeemenis! jumenis! Zeemenis, jeemenis Kristus! Jeemenis Maria! See Jemeny, in Oudermans."

Jemmy (popular), a sheep's head; sometimes called by the lower classes a "bloody *jemmy*," on account of the quantity of blood about it.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Nancy quickly laid the cloth; disappearing for a few minutes, she presently returned with a pot of porter and a dish of sheep's head; which gave occasion to several pleasant witticisms on the part of Mr. Sikes, founded upon the singular coincidence of *jemmy* being a cant name common to them, and also to an ingenious implement much used in his profession. —*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

(Thieves), a crowbar.

They call for crowbars—*jemmies* is the modern name they bear—
They burst through and bolt and bar—
but what a sight is there!
—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

It has come to the writer's knowledge that the principal tool employed by the burglars is a *jemmy*, which plays the innocent part of axle to a perambulator during the day.—*Thor Fredur: Sketches from Shady Places.*

(Popular), a greatcoat.

Jemmy duck (men-o'-war), the ship's poulterer.

Jemmy Jed (American). When a boy has not brushed his hair, and it stands on end, he is called a *Jemmy Jed*. In the old American editions of Mother Goose's Nursery Rhymes, *Jemmy Jed* is represented in a rude woodcut as rushing from a shed with his hair on end.

Jemmy Jed
Went into a shed,
And made a ted
Of straw his bed;
An owl came out
And flew about,
And *Jemmy Jed*
Up stakes and fled.
Wasn't *Jemmy Jed* a staring fool?
Born in the woods, to be scared by an owl.

Jemmy Jessamy (popular), a dandy (Hotten).

Jemmy O'Goblin (theatrical), a sovereign.

Jenkins (journalistic), the name given to the person on the staff of the *Morning Post* who reports the Court news, and gives accounts of grand balls, &c.

Jenny (American thieves), a hook on the end of a stick. (Billiards), a losing hazard into the middle pocket off a ball an inch or two from the side cushion. (Popular), a hot-water bottle put into a bed to keep a person's feet warm.

Jeremy Diddler (common), an adept at raising the wind, *i.e.*, at borrowing money, especially at borrowing with no intention of repaying. See the farce of "Raising the Wind" (Hotten).

Jericho (common), from *Jericho* to June, a very great distance.

His kick was tremendous . . . he would send a man from *Jericho* to June.—*Ingoldsby Legends.*

A prison, a watercloset.

Jericho! go to (common), an exclamation of impatience—begone! In the Manor of Blackmore, about seven miles from Chelmsford, King Henry VIII. had a house which had been a priory, to which he frequently retired when he desired to be free from disturbance. To this place the name *Jericho* was given as a disguise, so that when any one inquired for the king when he was indulging himself in animal pleasures in Essex, it

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

was customary to say he was "gone to Jericho." The Rev. W. Callander, Vicar of Blackmore, wrote in 1880, that the place "habitually goes by the name of the 'Jericho Estate,' or the 'Blackmore Priory.' There is a brooklet running through the village, which I have heard called 'the Jordan.'" There seems evidence that the phrase was used in the time of Henry VIII., but it is not quite clear that it originated in the circumstances stated.

Jerker, chamber-pot; (nautical), the steward.

Jerks (American), got the *jerks*, has the delirium tremens, is nervous, or under religious excitement at a camp-meeting.

Jerk the tinkler (common), otherwise "agitate the communicator."

"*Jerk the tinkler.*" These words, in plain English, conveyed an injunction to ring the bell.—*Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Jerk, to. This word is used in the United States in endless forms to express action, especially if rapid.

I can *jerk* a poem with any of them *Atlantic Monthly* fellows.—*Artemus Ward.*

Jerry. This word is common among the lower classes of the great cities of England in such phrases as *jerry*-go-nimble, diarrhœa; *jerry*-shop, an unlicensed public-house with a back door entrance; and *jerry*-builder, a cheap and inferior builder who runs up those miserable, showy-looking tenements, neither air-proof nor water-proof. *Jerry* seems derivable from the gypsy *jerr* or *jir* (i.e., *jeer*), the rectum, whence its application to diarrhœa, a back door, and all that is contemptible. From the same root we have the Gaelic *jerie*, pronounced *jarey*, behind; the French *derrière*. The Gaelic word also signifies wretched, miserable, in which sense it is strictly applicable to the *jerry*-builder, and to the contemptible characters popularly know as *jerry*-sneaks. A *jerry*, a chamber utensil, abbreviation of Jeroboam. (Thieves), a watch-chain. (Popular), a round felt hat or pot hat. (Printers), on an apprentice coming out of his time it is customary to give him a *jerry*, in the shape of as much noise as possible. Chases and iron plates suspended and beaten with bars of iron, together with whistling and rattling, are considered the correct thing, and truly a printing-office seems a perfect pandemonium under such circumstances. Hansard in his "Typographia," 1825, deprecates such ovations. The same practice is habitual in French printing-shops, and is called *roulance*.

Jerry Lynch (popular), a pig's head pickled (Hotten).

Jerry nicking, sneaking (thieves), watch stealing.

Jerry-sneak (common), a henpecked husband. From a character in a play. (Thieves), a stealer of watches.

Jersey lightning (American). This is apple brandy, or spirit distilled from cider, which is so called because the best is made in the State of New Jersey. It is also called apple-jack. But a noggin of *lightning* was the "flash" for a quartern of gin a century ago, and it is defined as such in George Parker's Dictionary of 1789.

The guests now being met,
The first thing that was done,
Was handing round the kid,
That all might smack his mun.
A flash of *lightning* next
Bets tipt each cull and frow,
Ere they to church did pad,
To have it christened Joe.
—*Life's Painter*, 1789.

This is interesting as showing that *mun* (Hindu, *mun'h*, a face) at that time still retained in gypsy its earliest form.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem pony (popular), ass or donkey.

On Hampstead Heath I ruralise,
And chaff the girls around,
I ride the best *Jee-ru-sa-lem*
That up there can be found.
"Here's Champagne Charley loose again!
And what's your game?" they cry,
And as I'm always so polite,
"Ax my donkey," I reply.
—*Champagne Charley's Donkey. A Neddyfying Ditty by J. A. Hardwick.*

I saw young 'Arry with his billycock on,
Checked trousers on his thighs, with knobbed stick armed,
Climb from the ground like fat pig up a pole,
And flop with such sore toil into his saddle
As though a bran-bag dropped down from the clouds,
To turn and wind a slow *Jerusalem*,
And shock the world with clumsy assmanship. —*Punch.*

Donkey riding masters will give the daughters of the aristocracy lessons in Rotten Row. A thoroughbred *Jerusalem pony* at sixpence an hour.—*Funny Folks.*

Jerusalem the golden, Brighton; so called from the numbers of wealthy Hebrews who frequent this watering-place.

Jesse, Jessie (popular), of American origin; to give a man *Jesse*, to abuse vehemently, or to thrash and belabour him severely. The expression is supposed to be intensified when, instead of *Jesse*, the words "particular *Jesse*," or "d——d particular *Jesse*," are used. The origin is unknown. A synonymous expression is to "give one fits," "particular fits," or "d——d particular fits." The original term appears to have been to *jess*. A gypsy would understand by this to make a man go, or to clear him out, but this is a very doubtful derivation, as is Hotten's, that *Jessie* is synonymous with *gas*. "It is evidently derived from the allusion in the Bible to Jesse's valour and the aid which he rendered, a text continually repeated among the Puritans" (C. G. Leland, Notes).

Jesuit (Cambridge), a member of Jesus College.

Jet (old cant), a lawyer.

Jew butter (American), goose-grease.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Jib (Dublin University), a first-year man. (Gypsy), language, speech (Hindu *tschib*). Also used in canting. "Dré savo *jib* rakdé o mūsh?"—in what language did the man talk? (Common), cut of one's *jib*. *Vide* CUT OF ONE'S JIB.

If she dislikes what sailors call the *cut of their jib*.—*Scott: St. Ronan's Well.*

Jibb (tramps), the tongue.

Jibber the kibber, to (old cant), decoying vessels on shore for plunder, by tying a lantern to a horse's neck. From *jibber*, or horse that shrinks.

Jiffess (tailors), employer's wife.

Jigery pokery (tailors), humbug.

Jigger (canting and gypsy), a gate or door. One of the oldest cant words, given in Harman. Mr. Turner would derive it from the Welsh *gwddor*, a gate, but it seems to come much nearer to the old gypsy *stigga* (also *stekka*), a gate, &c.—there are many instances of Romany and Hebrew words which have undergone much greater change into English than that of *st* to *j*—or, as it is often pronounced, *shtigger*. The Welsh *gwddor* has itself a close affinity to the Romany *wūder*, a door, but *goodor* can hardly be said to resemble *gugger* (or *jigger*), so much as the latter resembles *shtigga*. (Billiards), the rest. (Printers), *vide* VISORUM. An article used by compositors to hold the copy by, and also applied to a small box with narrow divisions to hold odd or peculiar sorts in, that do not belong to the cases that he has in use.

Jigger dubber (thieves), a turnkey.

Jiggered (popular), an oath, equivalent to "blowed," or "damned."

"Got him, Jerry? Halves, don't you know," exclaimed the boy eagerly.

"Halves be *jiggered*," roared Jerry, seizing my other arm. "What's halves for? Ain't I been a-huntin' arter him ever since his father come home? Wasn't I the first to ketch him?"—*J. Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins.*

"Well, then," said he, "I'm *jiggered* if I don't see you home!" This penalty of being *jiggered* was a favourite suppositious case of his.—*Dickens: Great Expectations.*

If it hadn't been that my uncle kicked me six times round his garden at Shrewsbury, because I said I'd be *jiggered* if I went, I don't believe I should have had courage to accept the appointment of naturalist to the expedition.—*Punch.*

It is said the expression arose from the suffering caused by the chigoe insect in the West Indies, which burrows in the feet of the bare-footed negroes (T. L. O. Davies). Sailors call these chigoes *jiggers*. But it is probably from *jig*, allied to *jog*, to split, *i.e.*, destroy (*vide* Skeat); *jigger*, to move rapidly, to use exertion, as in "*jiggered* up."

Jiggered up (nautical), tired, exhausted.

Jih-zee-pah-nee-ah (pidgin), *Ispagna*, *i.e.*, Spain.

Jill-mill (Anglo-Indian), Venetian shutters.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES INDIA

Jilt (thieves), a crow-bar. (American thieves), specially applied to a girl who embraces and kisses a man, and covers his eyes while her accomplice robs him.

Jimjams, the (society), delirium tremens. Called also the "uglies" or "horrors."

Should you ask me whence these blear eyes,
Whence the shaking and contrition
With the horrors of the *jim-jams*.
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Jimmy. This word, which came into use at Cambridge University some twenty years ago, is not found in print except in Mr. Besant's works. It has three uses in ordinary parlance, "that's all *jimmy*," that's all nonsense. *Jimmy* was in use fifty years ago in America, meaning exactly, fit, suitable. In show parlance a *jimmy* means according to the context a "fake," or a concealed confederate.

(South Africa), a settler in his first year.

Jimpsecute (Texas). In the Texan vernacular, this is the equivalent used, when a young man goes to pay his devoirs to the fair one, to signify the object of his attentions. She on the other hand calls her lover a "juicy-spicy."

I knew a man in Texas once who had no more sense than to have a *jimpsecute*, and this was all her name; Dionysia Boadicea Jeffalinda Jacobina Christiana Buckiana Caledonia Susannah Emily Wyatt Wilkinson Moore Wynne.—*Overland Monthly.*

Jin (gypsy), know (Hindu *jāna*, also *chinhua*, to recognise; *jināva*, often *jināwa*, I know; *jinessa* or *jines*, thou knowest; *jindom*, I knew; *jinaben*, knowledge; *jinairt*, to know, a compound between the old form *jinav*, and the English postfix "of it," to *jin; jinomescro*, a learned or knowing man. On the Continent the Romany still preserves the Hind. *jan*, "Janesa tu Romanes?" (Hungarian gypsy), dost thou know Romany? "Janel o baro Dewel ani Polopen," the great God in Heaven knows (German Romany).

Oh dye, miri dyé!
Dont tute *jin* a Romany rye.

I.e., "Oh mother, my mother, don't you know a gypsy gentleman."

Jingling johnnies (Anglo-Indian). They term thus a small flat, light structure which runs on wheels, and on which two or three individuals will sit with their legs dangling over the sides, the native driver sitting in front to guide the single horse which drags one of these primitive-looking vehicles.

Jinked his tin (popular), rattled or paid his money.

He tried to look just like a duke,
As he passed through the wicket.
The train got in, he *jinked his tin*,
Then went away to dine.
—*J. F. Mitchell: Jimmy Johnson's Holiday.*

Jinks. *Vide* HIGH JINKS.

Jinny (thieves), a Geneva watch.

Jin-rick-sha, jenny-rick-shaw (pidgin, both Chinese and

Japanese), a very light vehicle drawn by a man. Japanese *ku-ru-ma*. The French in Tonkin call it "pousse-pousse." The *jin-rick-sha* has of late years extended to China and India. Mr. Giles states that the word is a translation of three characters, signifying man, strength, cart, an exact equivalent, as the Americans in Japan at once discovered, of "Pull-man-car."

The *jin-rick-sha* is a great improvement on the Bath-chair, enabling the man who acts horse to it to go from four to six miles an hour.

Jiv (gypsy), to live; *jivava*, I live; *jivin'*, living; *jivaben*, life.

Adré o pūro chirus būtidosta manūshia *jivvede* kūshte-bākeno 'dré o chone.—*Gypsy Stories.*

I.e., "In the old time many men lived happily in the moon."

Job, on the (turf), a horse is said to be or not to be *on the job*, according to the supposed intentions, honest or the reverse, of his jockey.

Trainers and jockeys, from various trivial circumstances, very easily gathered whether a particular horse they were asked to ride was "out for an airing" or was *on the job.—Standard.*

Job also means a commission to back a horse; "he has got the *job*," he has the putting on of the stable money. (Thieves', a thieving affair, a murder.

In some of the worst of these dens robberies are planned, and spoils divided, and every inhabitant knows full particulars as to how and when the *job* was done, or the "crib cracked."—*Town Talk.*

(Popular), any affair; *on the job*, on duty there; the slavey *on the job*, the servant there. To be *on the job*, to enter into a thing heart and soul, with spirit, to be wholly bent on some undertaking.

And 'Arry is fair *on the job.—Punch.*

Always *on the job* is the competitor in angling contests.—*Globe.*

Job captain (naval), one who gets temporary appointment to a ship.

Joe (popular), a too marvellous tale, a lie, or stale joke. Abbreviated from *Joe* Miller. The full name is occasionally used, as in the phrase, "I don't see the *Joe* Miller of it," I don't see the wit (Hotten). "Not for *Joe!*" the refrain of a popular song, equivalent to "Not if I know it." (American university), a *cabinet d'aisance. Vide* HOLY JOE.

Joey (prison), a humbug.

Convicts generally believe these displays of religion on the part of their fellow-prisoners to be mere shams, calling those who indulge in them by the nickname of *Joeys.—Mayhew: Criminal Prisons of London.*

(Popular), a popular synonym for clown, derivable from *Joey* Grimaldi, the great pantomimist. Also a fourpenny piece. The term is from Sir Joseph Hume.

These pieces are said to have owed their existence to the pressing instance of Mr. Hume, from whence they, for some time, bore the nickname of *Joeys.—Hawkins: History of the Silver Coinage of England.*

COINS OF THE REALM.—'Arry remarks that the Tories are led by a "Bob" (Cecil),

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the Parnellites can boast the possession of a "Tanner," whilst the Liberal Unionists make the most of their *Joey.—Punch.*

(Naval), a marine.

Joeying (theatrical), buffoonery, and taking liberties with the text and with the audience—a highly reprehensible practice amongst certain very low comedians.

Jogerring omey (theatrical), a musician. From the Italian *giocar*, to play, and *uomo*, a man.

John Company (Anglo-Indian), a term for the Honourable East India Company, which was often taken and used by the natives in days of yore. John was supposed to have a real existence; but according to that charming novel "Pandurang Hasi," some of the *Topee wallahs* were uncertain whether John was a man or a woman. Those who were so wicked as to doubt whether there were such a person, were sure ere long to have something bad happen to them.

Johnny (common), a swell; a man belonging to a particular set is one of the *Johnnies*. The young man of the day. A fellow.

When this idea passed through my head,
I was on it;
The earth was made for all, I said,
I was on it.
I twirled my stick, walked on my toes,
I struck a *Johnnie* on the nose.
He spoke not, but his foot arose—
I was on it.
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Johnny, with its diminutive Jack, is often used in all modern languages as a term of contempt.

The Italian *Gianni* (pronounced by the Venetians and other provincials *Zanni*) has passed into our language as synonymous with a fool—*Zany*; and in our vernacular we have Jack-of-all trades, Cheap Jack, jack-pudding and jack-ass—none of these titles being conferred as marks of respect. In German folk-lore it is always a *Hans* who is the model of folly or stupidity. The Spanish, similarly, have the phrase, a *Bobo-Juan*.—*Tit-Bits.*

To this enumeration might be added the French *Jean-Jean*, a great simpleton; *Jean foutre*, or *Jean fesse*, a despicable fellow.

(Popular), my girl, or my young man.

(Irish), half a glass of whisky.

Johnny Bates' Farm. *Vide* BATES' FARM.

A gentleman who had apparently not washed his face, nor let his hair grow since his last visit to *Johnny Bates' Farm*, which is, I understand, the pet name with *ces gens* for H.M. Prison at Wandsworth. —*Sporting Times.*

Johnny-bono (East), the sobriquet by which in the East, the English are commonly designated.

Johnny darbies (thieves), policemen. Also handcuffs.

Johnny raw (common), a green hand, a recruit.

John Orderly (shows and gaffs), the showman's password to cut short the performance. Said to be derived from Richardson, the famous showman, with whom Edmund Kean served his apprenticeship as an acrobat. When Richardson visited

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"wakes and fairs, and market towns," with his travelling show, upon fair days, the actors were supposed to perform a melodrama and a pantomime in half an hour. When, however, the booth was crowded to repletion while the performance was actually going on inside—the great showman was wont to remain outside on the Parade, continually inviting the crowd to "walk up, and be in time. Just a goin' to begin!" As soon as he had gathered together enough people to fill the booth again, it was his custom to sing out over the heads of the crowd within "Jack Orderly." Upon hearing that signal the performers put the steam on, the play and the pantomime were finished in ten minutes, and one audience was disgorged at the side doors, while the other streamed in from the front. Mr. Dutton Cook derives the phrase from an earlier authority. In his "Book of the Play" he states: "The life of Edwin the actor, written by" (to quote Macaulay) "'that filthy and malignant baboon, John Williams, who called himself Anthony Pasquin,' and published late in the last century, contains the following passage: 'When theatric performers intend to abridge an act or play, they are accustomed to say, We will "John Audley" it. The saying originated thus: In the year 1749, Shuter was master of a booth at Bartholomew Fair, in West Smithfield, and it was his mode to lengthen the exhibition, until a sufficient number of persons were gathered at the door to fill the house. This event was signified by a fellow popping his head in at the gallery door, and bellowing out "John Audley?" as if in the act of inquiry, though the intention was to let Shuter know that a fresh audience were in high expectation below. The consequence of this notification was that the entertainments were instantly concluded, and the gates of the booth thrown open for a new auditory.

John Smith, a (American and English). The frequent recurrence of this name has caused it to become a byword. Once when an American editor asserted that it was "no name at all," an aggrieved Smith collected and published the names of the *John Smiths* who had distinguished themselves. It may be remarked that in the beginning of Teutonic names there were but three; Jarl (Earl), the first nobleman, Smidt (*Smith*), the first workman, and Thral (Thrale), the first labourer or bondsman.

The *Smith* family was largely represented in the army of the Union, and at one time there were upwards of 600 in the Army of the Potomac. On one of the regimental rolls in the Teutonic division, which gave the names and birthplaces, were entered, "Giovanni Smithi, Italy; Juan Smithas, Spain; Jan Smidt, Holland; Ivan Schmithiweski, Poland; Jean Smeets,

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

France; Ion Skimmitton, Greece; Janos Smido, Hungary; Hansli Schmitl, Switzerland; Hános Smeta, Lithuania; Vanni Smitello, Sicily; Gianno Smito, Venice; Evanelo Zsmitka, Croatia; Jehan Ismit, Isle of Jersey; Shaun Ztliemitlche, Brittany; Hanas Smatem, Bulgaria; Ehonas Asmito, Jerusalem;" and twelve *John Smiths* born in this country, besides one whose native land was sweet Erin, of whom it was recorded, "named Patrick, but says that he is called *John* for short." —*Ben: Perley Poore.*

"Mishter," said a Hollander to the clerk at the railway station. "Ik vants a *uitganger* dicket, an emikrant dicket to ga toe Chicago?"

"Well—what's your name," was the reply.

"Ya—dat is Van Berkenschooverzwererdondertromp."

"Great Moses, Mister!" cried the clerk alarmed. "I can't write all that down. Don't you know what it is in English?"

"Ya—I does. It's *Von Smit.*"—*Philadelphia Courier.*

Joined the gang (popular), a vulgar phrase equivalent to saying that any one has become a thief.

Then from the door he soon did shoot
With the booty in his duke—oh dear! . . .
He was sentenced, understand, with the rest of *the gang*
For a term of seven long years.
Rolling home in the morning, boys,
As drunk as ever he can stand,
Sure my heart is broke and no mistake,
Since Johnny *joined the gang.*
—*Broadside: Johnny's joined the Gang.*

Joint (American), a place of public resort, generally a "saloon," a room of a very low character. From its having been originally an adjacent, adjoining, or *joint* room, an annexe. All the opium-smoking dens kept by Chinese in the United States are called opium *joints.* To explain the following extract it should be understood that the obtaining a license to sell liquor in the American cities often, if not generally, depends upon the political influence of the applicant.

Carew said that while his saloon was a "tough *joint,*" it was not near so bad as Monroe's or the Alcazar. Though a good Democrat, he doubtless lacks the Aldermanic "influoence" back of Monroe and Wilson.

(Common), to put a person's nose out of *joint,* to grievously vex or disappoint him.

Joint, working the (thieves), swindling in the streets with a lottery table, the indicator of which can be made to stop at any point by pressure on a concealed rod.

Jokist (common), a man fond of playing practical jokes.

On entering the room I had given the bottle into the hand of a young man, a son of the house. This young fellow was a bit of a *jokist*, so when about to take out the glass stopper from the bottle he said to a jolly, fat old Kaffir woman, who stood close by, "Sara, kom ruike heirzo de lekker goed"—(Sara, come and smell this sweet stuff).—*Globe.*

Jolly (thieves), a pretence, excuse.

So I began to count my pieces for a *jolly* (pretence).—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

Other meaning explained by quotation.

One who assists at a sham street row for the purpose of creating a mob, and promoting robbery from the person—a *jolly.*—*Seven Curses of London.*

(Common), *jolly* is used slangily as an expletive, signi-

fying superlatively, as, he got *jolly* well thrashed, or *jolly* drunk.

Jolly as a sandboy, old expression. The "Three Jolly Sandboys" is a tavern sign. Who the original gay and festive *arenarius* was we have not discovered.

I'm as *jolly as a sandboy*, as happy as a king,
No matter what occurs to me, I laugh at everything.
Although I'm like my mother, I'm the image of my pa,
At everything I see, I laugh—ha! ha!, ha! ha! ha!
—*Catnach Ballad.*

Jolly, by jolly! (American), an interjection. Possibly a modification of gorry! made by French Canadians in association with *joli.*

I once knew an Indian named Tomah. His friends made Tomah or Thomas into a beaver by adding *quah* to it. Tomaquah, the Beaver, had but one oath, it was *by Jolly!* What deity in the Algonkin or Kanuck mythology *Jolly* represented, I did not inquire. It occurred to me one day that *Jolly* would have made a good tutelary saint for Mark Tapley. While we were ornamenting birch boxes, I explained the idea at full length to my friend. He listened gravely, and as it dawned upon him, interjected approvingly *by Jolly!* —*C. G. Leland: Algonkin Notes.*

Jolly, to (thieves), to impose upon, to act as an accomplice or abettor. Now common, with the meaning to speak up for.

Of course every "school coach" has one of the most wonderful bowlers or batsmen ever seen. If he did not say so he would not do his duty, and he is bound *to jolly* for his own side.—*Bailey's Monthly Magazine.*

(Popular), *to jolly* a person is to "chaff" or "get at" him, or to hold him in ridicule. (Acrobats, &c.), refers to the act of a friend, a confederate in the crowd, who puts in a good show of money when the hat goes round, which is returned to him afterwards.

Jolly, to chuck a (cheap Jack), to praise another's goods, so as to entice the bystanders into buying.

Jomer (popular and thieves), a mistress, a sweetheart; literally a kiss, either from the gypsy *chumer*, a kiss, or the Yiddish *joma.*

Jonnuk (shows, &c.), to be fair, to share equally.

Jonger (gypsy), to awake.

Josey, to (American), to go, hasten on. Possibly suggested by the Jewish slang *jozch*, to go out, go forth, or from the gypsy *jāsa*, *i.e.*, go hurry.

"Hey, get along, Jim along *josey!*
Hey, get along, Jim along joe!"

Josh, to (American), to chaff, to make fun of, to quiz. English provincial, *joskin*, a country clown; *jostle*, to cheat (Sussex). There is an apocryphal origin of the phrase that a miner having been told by a friend that Joshua once commanded the sun to stand still and it obeyed him, replied, "I guess you can't come *josh* over me!"

"Have you boys seen any Indians round?"
"No—they hadn't seen any."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"Nobody's been *joshing* you, I suppose?"

"Oh no! *Joshing* them! Not much."
—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

For some unknown reason a *josh* is supposed, like a David, to be always a sleepy person. On the New York Stock Exchange, says Medbury in "Men and Mysteries of Wall Street" (cited by Bartlett), if a member drops asleep, "*Josh! josh!*" comes roaring from a dozen lungs, and the broker is awakened by the cry. Thackeray seems to have associated *josh* with fatness and dulness in his *Josh* Sedley. Possibly the Chinese *Josh*, or Buddha, who is the incarnation of stoutness and tranquillity, suggested the word.

Joskin. Generally used to denote a dull rustic or greenhorn. It would seem, however, to be derived from the Yiddish or German-Hebrew *joschen*, to sleep, sleepy (*i.e.*, stupid), or from *joschen*, old; *ein joschenisch*, an old man.

Josser (popular), a synonym for a "prosser" or sponge. A simpleton, a "flat."

There is a *josser's* land,
Far, far away!
Where a drink they never stand,
Far, far away!
Termed Prosser's Avenue,
Where of Pros' you meet a few.
Hundreds could much better do,
Far, far away!
Far away! Far away!
—*Catnach Broadside.*

Probably from "joskin," a lout or countryman. (Australian popular), a priest, the Chinese temples being called "joss-houses" or "josses." Australian slang designated those who ministered in them *jossers*, and then extended this term it had created to mean ministers of any religion.

The reverend *josser* . . . kept his fist in Foley fashion hammering the pulpit.
—*Newspaper.*

Joss-house (pidgin), an idol temple. *Vide* Joss.

One tim Wang he makee tlavel,
Makee stop one night in *joss-house*,
He go sleepy, by'mby wake
In-i-side all-samee *joss-house*.
—*Wang the Snob.*

Long side he *joss-house*
Stop one old mandalin.
—*The Rebel Pig.*

Joss, josh (pidgin), God, a god, an idol. This, say the authors of "Hobson-Jobson," is a corruption of the Portuguese *Deos*, God, first taken up in the pidgin language of the Chinese ports from the Portuguese, and then adopted from that jargon by Europeans as if they had got hold of a Chinese word. "I know but little of their religion," wrote Bockyer in 1711, "more than that every man has a small *joss*, or god, in his own house."

He olo fáta (father) still as mouse,
He chin-chin *joss* top-sidee house,
Allo tim he make *joss*-pidgin,
Wat you fan-kwei cälly ligion.
—*Mary Coe.*

Joss-pidgin-man, joss-house-man (pidgin). "Thus also in pidgin, *joss-house-man*, or *joss-pidyin-man*, is a priest or a

missionary" ("Hobson-Jobson," p. 354).

Piggy keepe glowin (growing)
Fatteler an' fatteler,
Neva such a piggy
Since pigs began,
Joss-man he smilee
An' talk "you be one flatteler,"
When dey talkey pig look all-samee like
he *joss-pidgin-man*.
—*The Rebel Pig.*

Jostick, joss-stick (pidgin), stick of fragrant powdered woods, combined with a little gum, used by Chinese as incense in their temples. The ingredients for the powder are the *putchok*, a sweet-smelling root from the Himalayas, and sandalwood.

An' Maly answer he lequest,
"My love Chinee joss-pidgin best,
My love Kwan-yin wit' chilo neat
An' *joss-stick* smellum muchee sweet."
—*Mary Coe.*

Jounce, to (American), to indent, impress upon, hit severely and suddenly.

Who was followed shortly after by a most unhappy tramp,
Upon whose features poverty had *jounced* her iron stamp.
—*The Ballad of Charity.*

Jounced, smitten, enamoured.

Journey (turf). The sense in which this word is used on the turf seems rather derived from the French *journée* than from the English *journey*. "It is not his *journey*," means "it is not his day."

Journeyman soul-saver (popular), a Scripture-reader; one of the subordinate staff of the garrison chaplains or other religious minister who is only a *journeyman* or casual performer.

Jower (American), a negro expression for "jaw," talking, and quarrelling.

Wunst erpon a time de creeters spate an' *jower* so much mungst deysefs, and hab so many onpleasan'nesses dat dey 'clude ter 'leck er Jedge ter 'cide all dish yer bickyin' (bickering) an' rucksuin' fer dem.—*De Lection fer Jedge.*

Jowl-sucking (popular), kissing.

J.P., Justice of the Peace. Vulgarly a Joe Poke, or a Harmanbeck in old slang.

Juba, Cudjo, Quashee, Jumbo, &c. (American). There are seven of these names in all given to negroes. The reason why they were once so common is that in the countries near the Guinea coast every negro bears the name of the day of the week on which he was born. King Coffee of Dahomey, as he was called, was really Cuffee. He was, in full, Cuffee Calcalli. It was, doubtless, some knowledge of this fact which induced Defoe to christen Robinson Crusoe's man Friday as he did.

"*Juba* is a negro dance consisting in keeping time by striking the feet on the floor, and clapping the hands on the legs to the music of the banjo" (Bartlett).

Quassia is so called from a negro named *Quashee*, who first made it known to white men. The French have the name "Bamboula" (from a dance) for a negro.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Jubilee, a new term for the behind, invented by the staff of the *Sporting Times* or *Bird o' Freedom*.

Young Savile Civility had bought the thing the day before, a beastly toy, made to look like a penny roll, with a mouse on a wire spring inside. The laugh was all on his side till he felt his daddy's old slipper beating on his *jubilee* with the rhythmic precision of the waves upon the wild sea-shore.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Juckel, joakel, jucko (gypsy), a dog. Evidently from jackal. When the gypsies came to Europe, they gave the names of animals to which they were accustomed to those resembling them. Thus they called a swan a *sakkū* or pelican, and an elephant is in their language a *boro nākengro gry*, a large-nosed horse. It is remarkable that the gypsies did not take a Hindu word in this instance.

"Jackal is not apparently Anglo-Indian, being taken from the Turkish *chakāl*. But the Persian *shagāl* is close, and the Sanskrit *srigāla*, the howler, is probably the first form. The common Hindu word is *gidar*" (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

Judge and jury (tailors), sham trials for offences real or imaginary, having but one object in view—beer.

Judge, the (American cadets), the man who is the most popular with his fellow cadets.

Judy (American), a simpleton, silly, donkey, a fool.

The commonly common council yesterday had a bowl of punch down at the Island, and they all made *Judies* of themselves—as usual. The Doctor was present, and the Chief of Police, with whose aid they raised the devil, so that none of the *dramatis personæ* were wanting.—*Philadelphia Sunday Paper.*

It was said of a man who was a convert to Judaism, that Punch and Judyism would be more in his line; but it is doubtful whether these words indicate the origin of the term. As it seems to be New York by birth, it is possible that it owes something to the Dutch *jool*, which means quite the same thing.

Jug (old), a term of contempt applied to a woman.

Hark ye, don't you marry that ill-mannered *jug*.—*Centlivre: Platonic Lady.*

(Common), a simpleton, a prison; a contraction of stone *jug*.

Don't you fancy the "Hunemployed" bunkum has nobbled me; not such a mug!
And as for O'Brien and his breeches, I'm glad the fool's fairly in *jug*.
No, no, law and horder's my motter, but wen a spree's on 'Arry's there;
And I thought, like a lot of the swells, I should find one that day in the Square.
—*Punch.*

To *jug* a person, to imprison him. The writer remembers a joke, in connection with this expression, made by a foreign gentleman in the presence of Stuart Mill, who was then seeking to bring Governor Eyre to justice for his share in the Jamaica massacre. "To *jug* your hare," he said, "you must first catch him."

Juggins (sporting), an aspirant, usually young, and always more largely provided with money than with brains. The lawful and longed-for prey of the turf sharper.

I never lured a *juggins* on
To pigeon or billiard match.
—*Sporting Times.*

The appellation, which is of recent origin, is never regarded as complimentary. In common use, with the meaning of simpleton, fool; a form of *jug*.

"Why don't he get the policeman," asked Peter, "who is standing there, to help him?"

"Because he is standing on the sovereign, you *juggins*."

And a lifelong friendship was again disturbed.—*Sporting Times.*

That's a motion, old man, you may carry,
When Toffdom and Gladstone jine hands,
And you may make a fair *juggins* of Harry.
—*Punch.*

This term is also used in America.

I'm not such a *juggins* as I look, my friends,
Though I may be soft and balmy;
They tell me I'm a goose, and all my tiles are loose,
But there's bigger fools than me in the army.
—*Broadside Ballad.*

Jug loops (popular), explained by quotation.

Even the hair and whiskers of the costermongers, like that of more civilised folk, used to be governed by fashion. Sometimes *jug loops* (the hair brought straight on to the temples, and turned under) would be the rage, another season "terrier crop" would be the style.—*Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins.*

Jūkalo, jūcko (gypsy), a dog.

Jumbaree (theatrical), jewellery.

Jump (thieves), a window. *Vide* BACK-JUMP. Used also in America and Australia.

Jump down (Canadian), the confines of civilisation. The idea involved is well put in the following quotation.

We started for Brandon in the first train that would carry passengers to that new city, which in the September of 1881 was what is colonially known as the *jump down*, that is, the last place that is in course of erection on the outskirts of what is called civilised life, and upon leaving which you at once *jump down* into the open gulf of unsettledom.—*A. Staveley Hill: From Home to Home.*

Jumped-up (popular), conceited, arrogant (Hotten).

Jumper (popular), short smock-frock worn by labourers, navvies, &c. Also a short external duck-frock worn by sail-makers, artificers, and riggers to preserve the clothing beneath. (American), a rude sleigh made of saplings, or rough poles, with the ends turned up. They cost very little, but are very useful. (Military), white canvas frock worn by the men at gun-drill. Also patrol jacket worn by gunners.

Jumpers (American thieves), men that rob houses by entering windows.

Jumping a claim (American), obtaining anything by fraud or stratagem. Originally a Western expression, signifying an attempt to oust a squatter or

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

settler on new country, such having by law and custom a first claim on the land. It has now come into general use.

Jumping Moses! (popular), an exclamation, probably of American origin.

Jumping off (turf), one of the earliest and most important accomplishments with which a two-year-old can be indoctrinated. In these days of short distance races, a horse which has not been taught to "jump off," *i.e.*, to begin at a high rate of speed, has but a poor chance with those properly instructed in the art. Therefore, as soon as a colt's education has so far progressed that he has learnt to obey the touch of the rider's hand as to walking, trotting, or cantering, his lessons in *jumping off* begin. He soon learns how to use his muscles for a sudden spring, and becomes as quick on his legs as a cat.

Jumping over the fat pot (theatrical), a stipulation made in the days gone by, that all engaged should assist (as the music in Macbeth, Pizarro, Rob Roy, Dance in Honeymoon, God save the Queen, &c.) in the old-fashioned pantomime Man in the Moon (now called the Shadow Pantomime). When gas even was not convenient (Richardson's show), the light was got by a large flame of burning fat, behind the sheet, and all, each and every one, had to contribute his share of the work, and many a time the awkward, spiteful, or half-drunken have knocked it over, not jumping high enough, and so finished the performance.

Jumping up (tailors), getting the best of one, or the reverse.

Jump off (American). This phrase is thus explained.

Now and again the broad stem of a fallen giant gives you 150 feet of splendid wooden road; but arrived at the end, you find you have been gradually ascending and now stand on what the Americans would call a *jump off*, with a mass of brush below you, hiding in all probability a collection of log, or a pitfall which, coming at the bottom of such a jump, would end your ramble for that day.—*Phillipps-Wolley: Trottings of a Tenderfoot.*

Jumps (popular), to have the *jumps*, the delirium tremens; also used in the sense of a craze, as "He's got the Jubilee *jumps*," he's gone crazed about the Jubilee.

"Now then, first boy, tell me what beer is made from."

"Hops."

"How do you know that?"

"'Cos it gives you the *jumps*."

He went down to the bottom of the class, but there is a bright future before him, nevertheless.—*Sporting Times.*

Jump the game, to (American). In gambling or poker slang to raid a gambling den by the police (C. Leland Harrison's MS. Collection of Americanisms).

Jump, to, to cheat, to steal. This word is used in England, but is more common in the United States. During the great civil

war it obtained great currency in connection with the impudent frauds of the mercenary adventurers—mostly newly-arrived Irish immigrants—who enlisted in the Federal armies for the conquest of the South, and received large sums as bounty-money, varying from two hundred and fifty to a thousand dollars, according to the needs of the State, and deserted within a few days after receiving it, and played the same game in a distant city, sometimes repeating the process as many as half-a-dozen or a dozen times. These evaders were called "bounty *jumpers*." *To jump* a claim, in the partially-settled districts of the great West, is to fraudulently attempt to dispossess a squatter who has the right of occupancy from having first settled upon the land.

One morning his rich "claim," of which the fame had spread, was *jumped*—two men had literally jumped into his pit, and he found them there when he came.—*H. L. Williams: In the Wild West.*

The word was used by Shakspeare in the famous passage wherein Macbeth communes with himself on the expediency of murdering Duncan (*Macbeth*, Act i., sc. 7).

"If the assassination
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch,
With his surcease, success; that but this blow
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,—
We'd *jump* the life to come."

The word is still used by the lowest classes in London, in America, and Australia, among whom "to *jump* a crib" signifies to rob a house; and "to *jump* a bloke" signifies either to cheat him, violently plunder him, ill-treat, or seize.

Anyhow, Doe Gilpin, the marshal, *jumped* him. I was right there when they met.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

"Sauter" is used in French in the same sense—"faire le saut d'une chose, est voler, ou escamoter une chose."

(Cape settlers), to *jump*, to steal. An English officer camping out was told to take care they did not *jump* his candlestick. (Australian popular), to supplant in, to take. The difference between *jump* and "shake" is that "shake" implies stealing, and *jump* does not. A thief "shakes" your watch; but if you take a seat in a railway-carriage, or on a coach that is engaged by some one else, you are only *jumping* it. It was a joke against a crustacean bachelor, an editor of a well-known journal in a Murray township, that he had *jumped* a baby, the fact being that in the year of the great flood a baby, alive and kicking, and enshrined in a gin-case, had been deposited by the waters on the verandah-roof just under his bedroom window.

(Medical), to try a dangerous medicine.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Jump-up-behind, to (common), to endorse an accommodation bill (Hotten).

Junk dealer (American), one who sells marine and old stores.

B. M. Koppler, a *junk dealer*, was arrested by Officer Rice yesterday, charged with stealing lead-pipe.—*St. Louis Republican.*

Junketting (nautical), good cheer and jollification; from a provincialism.

Junkit, to (Winchester College), to rejoice over. "*Junkit* over you" is not a very charitable way of saying, I would not be in your place. *Junkit* is from a provincialism meaning a merry-making.

Juries (costermongers), assertions, professions. "We deals fair to all that's fair to us—and that's more than many a tradesman does, for all their *juries*."

Jurk, jark (old cant), a seal. Still current among thieves in America.

Just what you're doing (American), a peculiar expression, often used in conversation, meaning that the subject in hand is of importance. "When you have a horse like that in hand you can't attend to anything else but *just what you're doing*." This was accidentally overheard at the Langham Hotel, London.

Put all your dynamite into *just what you're a doing*, whatever you do, and you'll do!—*Washington Courier.*

Jūva, commonly **juvo** (gypsy), a wife, woman. Properly a young woman (Persian *jūva*).

Juwaub (Anglo-Indian), a refusal, literally in Hindostani an answer. If a gentleman proposes to a lady, and is refused, he is said to be *juwaubed.*

K

KADY. *Vide* CADY.

If you want to buy a *kady* in Paris, you must go to modes.—*Sporting Times.*

Kaffir (popular and Yiddish), a prostitute's bully. Yiddish and Arabic, *kafir*, an infidel, a country boor.

Kanaka (colonial), explained by quotation.

The *kanaka* is a chocolate-complexioned importation from the South Sea Islands, sometimes equitably hired, fairly treated and paid, and at the expiration of the contract duly sent back to his or her native country.—*Daily Telegraph.*

Kana-man (pidgin), cannon-man, *i.e.*, artillerist.

Kanaman, he gun go bangy,
Some get shootee, some be hangy.
Many lebel head get choppy,
Samee garden-man cut poppy.
Empelor hab got de day,
Allo Tai-ping lunny way.
—*Ah-Fun.*

Kanits (back slang), a stink.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Kanitseeno (back slang), a stinking one.

Karibat (Anglo-Indian), food, literally rice and curry.

Karimption (American), a party, a set of people, a crowd, implying unity, relationship, or nationality. As *ption* occurs as postfix to other words, *e.g.*, "gumption," "conniption," it may have been added in this case to the German-Hebrew word *karim* or *krauwim* (plural), relations, or the related.

A whole *karimption* of Dutch emigrants were landed here yesterday.—*Bartlett: Cairo (Illinois) Times.*

Kate (American thieves), a smart, brazen-faced girl or woman. *Kat*, Dutch slang, a bad woman.

Katey (American thieves), a picklock.

K.D. (printers), abbreviation of the words *keep dark, i.e.*, "don't say anything about it."

Keel-hauling (common), a scolding, accompanied by personal chastisement. From the old nautical custom of punishing offenders by throwing them overboard with a rope attached, and hauling them up from under the ship's keel.

Not a blessed mag! Hes Sall Grabham been a *keel-hauling* of yer agen?—*Savage London.*

Keel over, to (popular). People are said *to keel over* when by some misfortune or other cause they come to grief in their undertakings or plans, as of a vessel "keel up." "To go up the spout," "to be dead broke," "to be stumped," are some of the innumerable synonymous expressions for the same idea. The expression is common in America.

He goes swarming along like the devil,
With a cut-water over the bay;
But though now he is perfectly level,
You'll see him *keel over* some day.
—*Song of a Swell.*

Keg (American), capacity to hold, stomach.

I met him going along with his head down, like he was drunk. We'd been having a time, and my *keg* was pretty full too.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Keen (American cadet), a humorous story, a joke.

Keen on (common), intent on, having great liking for, being in love with.

Keep a hotel, to (American), a phrase intimating administrative capacity. It is almost universally expressed in the negative, "He can't *keep a hotel*." The origin of it was as follows. About twenty-five years ago a man named Lynch, banjo performer in a negro minstrel troupe, lost his overcoat in a hotel in Vicksburg, Mississippi. As the landlord refused to pay him for it, he revenged himself for a long time after by a humorous dialogue in which the landlord was mentioned, and all his minor good qualities were faithfully enumerated, but which were neutralised by the other interlocutor, who drawled out,

NATIONAL ARCHIVE OF INDIA

"Ya-as—but he ca-ant *keep a ho-tel!*" The expression is still current.

Keep a pig, to (Oxford), to have a lodger. A man whose rooms contain two bedchambers has sometimes, when his college is full, to allow the use of one of them to a freshman, who is called under these circumstances a "pig." The original occupier is then said to *keep a pig* (Hotten).

Keep cave, to (Eton), explained by quotation.

Crib-fagging required two lower boys, for whilst one sat and read, another had to mount guard in the passage or on the staircase, to *keep cave*, that is, to give warning by a whistle if he should descry our tutor on the prowl.—*Brinsley Richards: Seven Years at Eton.*

Cave is of course the Latin word.

Keep dark, to (English and American). *Vide* DARK.

Keep sloom (tailors), keep quiet (stockcutter's expression).

Keep that dry (American), keep that concealed, secret.

But don't let it enter into your heart. Never let them get a chance at your sentiment; *keep that dry.*—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Keep your eyes skinned (West American), keep your eyes open, be watchful.

If you have any business to attend to, you'd best go right along and do it. *Keep your eyes skinned*, of course, but don't stay home.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

The English in the island cast in their lot with sugar, and if sugar is depressed they lose heart. Americans *keep their eyes skinned*, as they call it, to look out for other openings.—*J. A. Froude: The English in the West Indies.*

Keep your hair on. *Vide* HAIR.

Keep your pecker up (common), do not lose heart. *Pecker* is the mouth. From *pecker*, a bird's bill.

Each one is carefully guarded to the door by a policeman, and a voice may be heard crying out, *Keep your pecker up*, George, or 'Arry.—*Diprose: London Life.*

Keep your weather eye lifting (nautical), keep a sharp look-out.

Keffel (American thieves), a horse. From the German *keppel.*

Kelter (thieves), money. Probably from *gelt.* *Vide* GILT.

Kemesa. *Vide* CAMESA.

Ken (thieves), a place, house.

Nancy shall go to the *ken*, and fetch it to make all sure.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Also a bed.

Trim a *ken* for the gentry cove.—*Disraeli: Venetia.*

From *khana, khan*, gypsy and Oriental. This word generally has a prefix, as "boozing-*ken*," "speel-*ken*," &c.

Ken-cracker, or **ken-miller** (thieves), a housebreaker.

Kennedy (St. Giles), a blow on the head inflicted with a poker, supposed to be derived from the name of a man who was killed in that manner, in an encounter among Irish roughs in one of the slums of London. Compare

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the expressions derived from proper names: to "burke," to "boycott," and the French "watriniser" (*vide* Barrère's "Argot and Slang").

Kennurd (back slang), drunk.

Kent rag (popular), a cotton handkerchief.

Kerb-stone broker (common), an outsider, unofficial stockbroker.

Kerflop (American), another form of "kerslap, kesouse, keslosh, keswosh, kewosh, keswollop," and similar onomatopoetic words expressive of the falling of stones or the jumping of frogs into water.

It was a treat to hear him sling it blindly around, prefixing adjective after adjective to it as he did so, until with the accumulated weight and impulse, he at last brought the whole tautological string down *kerflop*, full and fairly, upon the devoted crown of his auditor.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Kerr'b to, (tinker), to hit, strike, punch.

My name is Barney MacAfee,
With my borers and jumpers (tinker's tools) down to my thee (thigh),
An' it's forty miles I've come to *kerr'b* yer pee (punch your face).
—*Tinker's Song.*

Kerslap (American), a word expressive of falling flat on the ground, straight onward, ahead.

Other people was sinful as they could be, but Shakers was all right. Shakers was all goin' *kerslap* to the Promist Land, and nobody wan't goin' to stand at the gate to bar 'em out, an if they did they'd git run over.—*Artemus Ward: The Shakers.*

Kettle (thieves), a watch; *red kettle*, gold watch.

Two *red kettles* a week will bring in about four pounds. This is better than getting three shillings a-day for slaving.—*Evening News.*

(Nautical), iron or ironclad vessels.

It is not generally known that the three torpedo cruisers . . . have been in the contractors' hands for the past ten months, and that all kinds of expedients have been resorted to. . . . The inexpressibly ludicrous plan of applying "poultices" to their *kettles* is now being tested.—*Society.*

Kettledrum (society), an afternoon tea-party.

Kew (back slang), a week.

Khana, khan, connah (Anglo-Indian), a place of residence, or store-room, entertainment. *Vide* BURRA KHANA.

There never was a *burra khana* given yet in Ind
Where some at the arrangement of the pairs were not chagrined.
—*Aleph Cheem: Lays of Ind.*

Khubber (Anglo-Indian), news, especially sporting news (Arabic, Persian, Hind., *khabar*).

There is *pucka* (good, real) *khubber* of a tiger this morning.—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Kibosh (English and Yiddish), nonsense, rubbish, or humbug.

Then he sez, "'Arry's always a Londoner."
Shows 'Arry aint no bad judge.
"Wot the crokkerdile is to the Nile 'Arry is to the Thames." Well, that's fudge.
That's a ink-slinger's try on at patter.
Might jest as well call me a moke.
Try another, young man; this is *kibosh* purtending to pass for a joke.
—*Punch.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"To put on the *kibosh*," to run down, slander, degrade. To put the *kibosh* on anything is latterly to put an effectual stop or end to it. In this sense it is apparently derived from the Yiddish *kabas, v.a., kabbasten*, to restrain, suppress, hold, put a stop to. In the common pronunciation the word is often sounded *kābash*.

Kick (popular and thieves), a pocket.

Our old friend . . . says they are ruinous to the *kick*.—*Bird o' Freedom*.

So I put on the hug, and then all in the dark,
I rifled his *kick* of his shiners so fine.
—*Greenwood: A Night in a Workhouse*.

Kick is probably an abbreviation of *kick*-pocket (*vide* KICKS), like *sky*-pocket, short for sky-rocket. (Common), explained by quotation.

The *kick*, or sixpence, at a hint,
From Demos is withdrawn in haste.
—*Funny Folks*.

In a *kick*, in a moment. (West American), a grudge.

I haven't got any *kick* against Don Juan. He has treated us like a gentleman.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin*.

Kickeraboo (West Indies), a corruption of the expression to "kick the bucket." *Vide* BUCKET.

Kicking at waist (tailors), an unsightly fault at waist in a coat, "out of balance."

Kicking for the boot (tailors), asking for money.

Kicking for trade (tailors), applying for work.

Kicking strap (tailors), an elastic strap inside a habit skirt.

Kicks, kicksters, kicksies (popular and thieves), breeches, trousers. From a metaphor similar to that which gave the synonymous "hams," "trollywags."

Kick the bucket, to. *Vide* BUCKET.

Kick the stuffing out of one, to (American), to ill-treat a person, or to take the wind out of another's sails; to get the better of one.

I am informed that, judged by the standard of success, the "ideal" newspaper is the one that whoops its own side to the top of the pole and *kicks the stuffing out of* the other fellow.—*New York World*.

Kick, to (Australian popular), an abbreviation for "kick the bucket," or for "at his last kick."

Kick, to have the (sporting), to have luck. From a football phrase.

Kick up (common), ceremony, proceedings of a noisy nature.

Were not Her Majesty's subjects from all ends of the earth coming to see the show, and take part in the *kick up*?—*Punch*.

Kick up a row, to (common), to make or cause a disturbance.

Charley dined, took his pen and sign'd;
Then Mob kicked over his throne from behind!
"Huzza! Huzza! we may scamper now!
For here we've *kicked up a* jolly good *row!*"
—*Ingoldsby Legends*.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Kid (popular, very common in London), a swell, a masher. A Londoner meeting another very smartly dressed, says, "What a *kid* we are," or the smartly dressed man might say, "Ain't I an awful *kid* to-day?" The "dude" and the "masher" are really well-dressed people, the *kid* is rather a smartly dressed person; also a policeman.

Every one of the urchins knows the School-board officer by instinct, and abhors him even more than their ancient terror, the bobby, copper, *kid*, or policeman.—*Thor Fredur: Sketches from Shady Places.*

A child.

My eyes, what a row! Sally was asleep, the *kids* were asleep, slavey was asleep.—*Evening News.*

"Served his time to the trade," returned the Badger coolly; "been at it ever since he was a *kid*—so high."—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

Kid, cheese; *kid* hard, synonymous with "hard cheese," "hard lines," no luck.

(Popular and thieves), explained by quotation.

Now, one of these brother boys was well known for his *kid*, that is, gammon and deviltry.—*Hindley: Life and Adventures of a Cheap Jack.*

Possibly from Anglo-Saxon *cydhan*, to declare, make known; the primary meaning of *kid* being a puffing speech, termed now "kidment," more probably from "kidder," a huckster, the patter of a huckster, and "gammon" being considered synonymous; compare the German *höken*, to deceive, "gammon;" from *höken*, a huckster. Also deception, humbug.

I was not a little surprised, therefore, to hear one of them remark, in the unmistakable language of a Cockney of the slums, that, in his opinion, it was all *kid*.—*J. Greenwood: Tag, Rag, & Co.*

Kidd or kid (thieves), a swindler. *Vide* KID.

He at once listened to the jargon of the well-dressed *kidd*, who hastened to explain that not being a smoker himself he did not know what to do with the magnificent lot of cigars that had just been left him.—*Tit Bits.*

Kiddily (popular), fashionably.

Kiddleywink (popular), a small shop where are retailed the commodities of a village store. Originally a *kiddle-a-wink*, from the offer made, with a wink, to give you something out of the kiddle or kettle. In the West country, an ale-house. Also a woman of unsteady habits (Hotten).

Kiddy (popular and thieves), a boy.

So take a caution, my *kiddy*.—*Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins.*

Kiddy-ken (thieves), a house frequented by mere children, girls and boys. During the past two years the increase of profligacy among "kids" of both sexes has been very great. A house recently broken up (1887) in London, was habitually visited by boys and girls; two of the former, who were very well dressed, and who appeared to be gentlemen's sons, were only eight and ten years of age, while the girls were of correspondingly tender years.

Kidlet, a boy or girl.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Kidment (popular), puffing speech of a Cheap Jack, or others. Humbug, nonsense, deceit, deception. *Vide* KID.

Kidney (Stock Exchange), a fractional part of one share. A corruption of a man's name Cadney, who is first known to have dealt under $\frac{1}{32}$.

Kidney blow (pugilistic), a blow planted in the short ribs, in the phraseology of the ring reporter. Often a backhander.

Kid, no (popular), no joke, seriously. For derivation *vide* KID.

Oh, right you are, chummie! I'm single, you bet, though I'm turned twenty-two,
And I've 'ad lots o' chances, I tell yer: fair 'ot 'uns, old man, and *no kid.*
—*Punch.*

Kid on, to (popular), to incite.

Kid oneself, to (popular), to fancy oneself, to be conceited of a thing. One talks of a man *kidding himself* on his moustache, or a woman *kidding herself* on her figure or her costume.

Kid rig, or kid lay (thieves), swindling, kidnapping, or robbing children.

Kidsman (thieves), one who trains boy thieves.

Kid, to (popular), to impose in any way, pretend. *Vide* KID.

Relating how he had *kidded* the workhouse authorities.—*Greenwood: Seven Curses of London.*

They've turned the gas out, and are *kidding* to play Nap just to make me think I've gone stone blind.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

(Turf), explained by quotation.

What do you mean by *kidding?*—It is a difficult word to explain. If you have got a good horse, and allow him to tumble about just as he pleases, and allow the reins to hang loose, the public would say that he was doing his best, but others might not think so. That would be *kidding.* . . .

It all depends on the arms, then, as I understand it?—Not necessarily. It may depend upon the legs, and all sorts of other things.—*Standard.*

A *kidding* horse, a shamming horse, one which pretends to be afraid, &c.

Kil (gypsy), to play on an instrument, properly *kel.*

The boshomongro *kils*, he *kils*,
The tani rakli gils, she gils.
Now shoon the Romany gilli!

I.e., "The fiddler fiddles, the little girl sings. Now listen to the gypsy song!"—*George Borrow: Lavengro.*

Kill-cow (popular), a great boaster.

Kill-devil (American), new rum. The rum known as "New England," when new, is an appalling beverage.

Kill, dressed to (American). *Vide* DRESSED TO KILL.

Killed (tailors), hopelessly spoiled.

Killock (nautical), given by Webster as a United States term for small anchor, but used in England with the meaning of anchor. Also "mud-hook."

Kilt (Irish), well beaten.

Kilter (American). "Out of *kilter* or *keelter*," disordered, ill, out

of repair. Dutch *keelterging*, nausea, "provocation of the stomach;" *kelderziek*, crop-sick, &c. This is, however, a doubtful derivation. Possibly from to *kilt*, to tuck up; so that "out of *kilter*" would literally mean hanging loosely, hence disordered.

Kinchen (popular and thieves), a child. From the German *kindchen*.

Kinchen morts (thieves), little girls trained to prostitution.

Kinchin cove (old cant), a man who kidnaps children. Also a little man.

Kinchins' lay (thieves), explained by quotation.

The *kinchins* . . . is the young children that's sent on errands by their mothers, with sixpences and shillings; and the *lay* is just to take their money away—they've always got it ready in their hands.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Kincob (Anglo-Indian), a term which is becoming well known in England for gold-brocade. Persian-Hindu, *kinkhwob*. Formerly called *khamkhā*, and known in the Middle Ages to Europe as *camocca*.

Kinder (American), as it were, in a manner, or after a fashion. *Kinder-sorter* (*i* pronounced as in *kind*), an old expression very common in New England.

I guess I *kinder* heard o' that before, but I'm like my old man; I never was good at rememberin' names.—*Boston Courier.*

The term is from an English provincialism meaning rather.

Kindness (popular), a favour in the way of enjoyment of the person granted by a woman to one of the other sex, or indeed, the other way. There is also a proverb of some standing—"After kissing comes greater *kindness*," and in this sense the word is still in vulgar acceptance. The French have the expression, "avoir des bontés pour un homme."

Kingsman (costermongers), explained by quotation.

It was the correct thing for the costermonger, whatever branch of industry he might pursue, to wear round his throat—bunchy, loosely tied, and elegantly careless—a very large, highly-coloured silk pocket-handkerchief. This the costermonger calls a *kingsman*.—*J. Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins.*

Kink (American), a fancy, caprice, or crotchet.

The very newest *kink*, I take it, is a revival of the Louis XVI. fashion.—*Chicago Tribune.*

From an English provincialism. In Suffolk a rope is said to *kink* when it does not run out even from its coils.

Kip (popular and thieves), a bed. This is probably an abbreviation of *kipsy*, basket. French thieves call a bed *pagne*, a corruption of "panier," basket. *Kip* had formerly the signification of house of ill-fame, and to "tatter a *kip*" signified to wreck one.

Kip house, a tramps' or vagrants' lodging-house.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Kipsy (thieves), a basket.

"Wasn't there any clobber?" "Yes, there's a cartload." So he said: "Go and get a *kipsy* full of it, and we will guy home."—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

This word is given as a recognised term by a dictionary of the first part of the eighteenth century. The form *kipe* is still used as a provincialism for an osier-basket to catch fish. It has been suggested that *kipsy* is from the Old English or Norman English *quipsure*, in which case *kipe* would only be an abbreviation of the primary *kipsy*. But again *kipe* is traceable to the Anglo-Saxon *cepan*, to catch. It must further be noted that *kipsy*, sometimes *kepsi*, is gypsy for basket and a willow. *Kipsi-kosh*, willow wood, of Indian origin.

Kip, to (popular and thieves), to sleep or lodge. *Vide* KIPSY.

Kirkling (thieves), housebreaking on Sunday evening by finding a house which has been left untenanted while the occupants are all at church (or kirk), or the servant left in charge enticed out.

Kisky (popular), drunk.

Kisser (popular), the mouth.

Kisses (Stock Exchange), Hotchkiss Ordnance Company Shares.

Kissing-trap (popular), the mouth.

The off-side of his *kissing-trap*
Displays an ugly mark!
—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

Kiss-me-quick (common), a small ladies' bonnet.

Kiss, to (billiards), said of balls in close contact.

Kist o' whustles, Scotch Presbyterian for organ.

Kit (popular), the whole *kit* of them, synonymous with the "whole gridiron," the "whole boiling," *i.e.*, all the party. (Old), a dancing-master. From the *kit* or small fiddle which he uses in his avocations.

Kit and boodle (American), the total or whole of anything, as the entire company. Bartlett suggests the German *beutel*, a purse, as the original source of *boodle*, or "perhaps the old English *bottel*, a bundle." But as it is a New York word its origin is to be sought in the Dutch *boedel*, pronounced *boodle* (which see), meaning property, or anything inherited.

Kitcheners (thieves), thieves who congregate in places known as thieves' kitchens. Mr. Greenwood says that such meeting places for the dregs and outcasts of society—whose means of living is a mystery to every one but their intimate friends, and who are seldom seen abroad until the shades of evening have long since fallen—exist within three minutes' walk of the Strand and within two minutes' of Covent Garden—in Drury Lane in fact, or rather in some of the lanes and narrow thorough-

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

fares leading out of that main thoroughfare into Great Queen Street.

Kitchenite (printers), a term of contempt for the hands that frequent the *kitchen* of the Compositors' Society house—usually those on the provident fund, that prefer the small relief given to honest labour. This term does not apply to the genuine unemployed, but only to the loafers.

Kite (popular), a fool; in French *buse* is both *kite* and fool. (Common), fictitious commercial paper. To *kite* or fly a *kite*, to raise money on a fictitious bill.

Here's bills plenty—long bills and short bills; but even the *kites*, which I can fly as well as any man, won't raise the money for me now.—*Miss Edgeworth: Love and Law.*

Evidently from an allusion to a *kite*, formerly termed a paper *kite*. Flying the *kite* is metaphorically putting a bill in circulation. In America fancy stocks are called *kites*, and to *kite* or *skite* means roaming from place to place, going about restlessly.

We passed eberyting on de road—you ought to seën us *kitin'*,
Golly! we had a gay old time when we went to Brighton.
—*American Song.*

Kiting has also the signification of going about and speculating wildly.

Kitties (military), the Scots Guards are so nicknamed.

The Duke of Cambridge has been playing havoc with the *kitties*, not the "kiddies," as *Vanity Fair* has it. "The *kitties*," we explain to those of our readers who do not dine with dukes, is slang for the Scots Guards.—*The Star.*

K legs (printers), a term of derision applied to a person with knocked-knees, or otherwise "shaky on the pins," owing to the legs being apart as in the lower portion of a capital K.

Klep (popular), a thief; to *klep*, to steal. From *kleptomania*, the meaning of which is now well known to all the lower classes who read the police news.

Knacker (common), an old horse, fit for the *knacker*.

Knackers (Stock Exchange), Harrison, Barber & Company Shares. (Butchers, &c.), the testicles, also "knuckers."

Knapped an hot 'un (prize ring), got a hard knock.

Knapping-jigger (old cant), a turnpike gate.

Knap, to (thieves), to steal. From to *knap*, to bite off, break short. Derived from the Dutch *knappen*, to bite, take, or catch hold of. (Popular), to catch, used in the phrase "Won't he *knap* it!" (Mountebanks and others), to *knap* the slap, to catch the slap of a lathe or board.

He got a board about the proper size, but too thick, and with it so belaboured the people on his concern that he laid some of them up, they not knowing how to *knap* the slap.—*Hindley: Life and Adventures of a Cheap Jack.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(American), to *knap*, to arrest, corresponding to the English "nab."

Knark (old), a savage person. Now spelt *nark*, meaning an informer.

Knat (tailors), a difficult task, a tyrant, one not to be deceived, played with, or hoodwinked.

Knife (army), a sword.

Knife-boards (London slang), the long, narrow seats for passengers on the tops of omnibuses.

The antiquated *knife-board* has been all but abolished, and garden seats reign in its stead.—*Daily Telegraph.*

Knifish (tailors), spiteful.

Knob or **nob** (popular), the head; one on the *knob*, a blow on the head.

Knobstick (popular), a phrase among workmen to designate one who takes work secretly at home, when the men are on strike, and accepts lower pay than the regulation price demanded by his fellows.

We need some measure calculated to completely restore prosperity to our industries, by means of a restrictive duty on the manufactured products of these *knobsticks*.—*Evening News.*

Knock (turf), "to take the *knock*," to lose more money to the bookmakers than one can pay, and thus to be incapacitated from approaching the ring.

"I've had a bad week," or "I've copped the *knock*," or "it's all gone down on Friar's Balsam."—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Knockabout (theatrical), an actor who does tumbler's work.

Messrs. —— are two of the smartest *knockabouts*.—*Fun.*

Knock about the bub, to (popular), to pass about the drink.

Knock about, to (common), to go, or saunter about.

Knock down a cheque, to (up-country Australian). "A system known as *knocking down one's cheque* prevails all over the unsettled parts of Australia. That is to say, a man with a cheque, or a sum of money in his possession, hands it over to the publican, and calls for drinks for himself and his friends, until the publican tells him he has drunk out his cheque. Of course he never gets a tithe of his money's worth in any shape or way—indeed the kindest thing a publican can possibly do is to refuse him any more liquor at a very early stage of the proceedings, for cheques for enormous amounts are frequently 'knocked down' in this way. A quarter of the worth of them, if honestly drunk out in Bush liquor, would inevitably kill a whole regiment" (Finch Hatton).

When a shearer once determines, at the end of the season, to *knock down his*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

cheque, as the phrase goes, he does it in the most complete and thorough manner. —*The Graphic.*

Knocked all of a heap (popular), astonished, dumbfounded. The metaphor is that one is absolutely floored, knocked down in confusion by surprise.

Knocked him bandy (tailors), completely astounded him.

Knocked into a cocked hat (American and English). When a round or high hat had been smashed, it was said to have been knocked into the shape of the three-cornered or cocked one. *Vide* COCKED HAT.

There is a Yankee locution descriptive of a process which implies ruthless and wholesale demolition and devastation, known as *knocking* things *into a cocked hat.* The French, from an architectural point of view, have *knocked* El Djezzair *into a cocked hat* as battered and shapeless as that of a parish beadle who has been maltreated by a mob of mutinous paupers.—*G. A. Sala: A Trip to Barbary.*

Knocked out (pugilistic), exhausted, beaten, "*knocked out* of time," which see.

Lyons, in the next round, fell down, and when he got up he seemed "pretty well *knocked out*."—*Evening News.*

(Turf), a horse is said to be *knocked out* in the betting when he is so persistently laid against that from short or comparatively short odds he retires to an outside place.

Knocked out of time (pugilistic), to be so thoroughly beaten as to be unable to stand up in the ring, or to keep time with his opponent, and receive a succession of new blows and bruises.

Knocked up (common), tired.

Knock-em-down business (popular), auctioneering.

Knocker (common), up to the *knocker*, completely.

I'm jolly, right up to the *knccker.*
—*Punch.*

Also showily dressed or proficient.

Knocker face (common), an ugly face.

Knocker out (pugilistic), a redoubtable prize-fighter.

Mitchell laughed at the idea of the "terrible right" both before and after, as well as during the progress of the fight, and that the celebrated *knocker out* employed it mainly as a means of stopping Mitchell's terrible left.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Knockers (popular), small flat curls worn on the temples by thieves and costermongers. Called also "sixes."

Knock in, to (Oxford), to return to one's college after gate is closed.

Knocking-out (Oxford University). All visitors, on leaving a college after time, have to state in whose rooms they have been, that his gate-bill may be scored up for them. When a rackety party takes place, the visitors, or "out of college men," are generally supplied with a list of

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

the names of the quietest men in college, so that the whereabouts of the party may not be betrayed (Hotten).

Knocking-shop (English and American), a house of ill-fame.

Knock-me-down (popular), strong ale.

Knock one down, to (American society), to introduce.

"*Knock me down* to that daisy," *i.e.*, "Introduce me to that fine girl."—*C. Leland Harrison: MS. Americanisms.*

Knock-outs. Fully explained as follows in Diprose's "London Society." "The *knock-outs* are not peculiar to London, they abound everywhere, they are regular traders in one particular branch of merchandise, be it 'old books,' 'articles of vertu,' china, plate, pictures, horses or houses. . . . They do not interfere with the sale, as is sometimes supposed. They let the general public bid as much as they please, and then is the opportunity for them to display their judgment. Knowing what the article is worth in the trade—which, if the property is valuable, will fetch more than the general public will give—they can outbid the last public bidder, and secure the property to themselves. They may be a band of six, ten, or twenty individuals present, who, after numerous bargains are secured, betake themselves to their favourite 'public,' and there settle, in the most business manner possible, who is to become the ultimate possessor by a '*knock-out* auction.' The article, say a picture, is put up at the purchased price by any one party, acting as auctioneer, and the original cost of, say ten pounds, may terminate by bidding up to twenty or thirty. The amount above the cost is placed in a bowl to form a fund to be equally divided amongst all present. . . . Property bought in this manner from an original public bid of a small amount, has often reached to a hundred pounds."

Knock the spots off, to (American). This was current in America as long ago as 1850. It means to surpass, confound, go backwards, beat.

After inviting their friends, they pole-axed the prize victims, cooked them as baked, boiled, and roast in their best style, and held a Jubilee banquet which *knocked spots off* anything of the kind ever held before.—*Modern Society.*

Knock the stuffing, wadding, lining, filling, insides out, to (American), to eviscerate, to empty, to knock daylight out of anybody.

Knock, to (popular), to make a great impression, to be irresistible.

Didn't he *knock* 'em! didn't he *knock* 'em!
Awfully comical didn't he seem?
Didn't he *knock* 'em! didn't he *knock* 'em!
Didn't he make the people scream?
—*Music Hall Song: Didn't he Knock 'em.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

"That *knocks* me," that is too much for me.

Knofka (theatrical), a prostitute; also "nofgut," which see.

Knout (public schools), a piece of wax on the end of a string, used as an instrument of chastisement by prefects on duty.

Knowing blokes (military). The term is applied in the army to individuals, found principally among the older soldiers, who appear to be continually suffering from chronic thirst, and who are constantly seeking to satisfy it at the expense of young soldiers.

The general in command . . . not unfrequently cautions the young soldiers particularly to "beware and not allow themselves to be influenced and led away by old soldiers with badges." . . . Numbers of these *knowing blokes*, as they are called, prove very apt teachers, and will not be found slow to try and inveigle some of the inexperienced into their "boosing schools." —*Brunlees Patterson: Life in the Ranks.*

Vide BLOKE.

Knowing cove (popular), a well-informed person, one in the secret.

Dame Rumour had given the office to some of the *knowing coves.—Punch.*

Vide COVE.

Know, in the (turf), to be *in the know* is to have a knowledge of the secrets of some particular stable. Sometimes to be generally *au fait* in turf mysteries.

Knowledge box (popular), the head.

Know one's way about, know one's way round, to (used in Australia more than in England), to be capable, knowing; a metaphor suggested by the helplessness of the man who does not know his way; or perhaps by the facilities offered to one who knows his way round to an unguarded point, such as a private entrance, or a flank.

But grant he *knows his way about*,
Or grant that he is silly,
There cannot be the slightest doubt,
Of Billy's faith in Billy.
—*H. Kendall: Billy Vickers.*

Knows the ropes (popular), is said of an old experienced workman, or any one who is well informed. Originally a sailors' phrase.

Know the time of day, to (popular and thieves), to be experienced, cunning.

The message must have found her, for a "dossy"-looking bounder,
Who appeared as if he *knew the time of day*,
Was the bearer of this answer, "If you want to see the dancer,
I can introduce you to her right away."
—*Sporting Times.*

Know your book, to (popular), to be correctly informed, to be right.

Ain't you glad sometimes to know,
A second thought you took
About a subject, upon which
You thought you *knew your book*.
—*Song: Ain't you glad you didn't.*

Knuckle down, to (schools), to kneel down, properly to submit to.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Knuckled (tailors), hand sewn

Knuckleduster (common), originally American. A piece of metal with holes for the fingers which close over it, and which covers the knuckles. This instrument, while protecting the knuckles, adds force to a blow struck with it.

Struck by one of the fellows with a *knuckleduster*, M—— was stunned for a moment, but he speedily recovered.—*Daily Telegraph.*

Also a heavy or gaudy ring.

Knuckler (thieves), a pickpocket.

The commons crowd around the Bar—
A rush—a hustle—merrily then
Begins the *knucklers'* war.
What are you thieves about?
—*Punch.*

Knuckle, to (thieves), to pick pockets.

Knucks (thieves), pickpockets, a contraction of "knucklers."

The *knucks* in quod did my schoolmen play.—*Ainsworth: Rookwood.*

Kokum (Australian prison), sham kindness.

Koniacker, cogniac-er (American thieves), a counterfeiter. Hence *kone*, or *cone*, money.

Kootee (Anglo-Indian), a house.

Kootoo or **kotow** (American), of Chinese origin, and signifying to bow down before. Misapplied, however, by many writers when used to denote flattery.

Consequently he has *kootooed* and salaamed before every travelling scribbler or story-monger, fearful that he would be dismissed by them to the dunce's stool for some solecism in manner or pronunciation. —*New York Tribune.*

Kop, a lost (South African), solitary hill.

Kopper, copper (popular), policeman, detective. *Vide* COP.

Père-la-Chaise vows that the treatment he received at the hands of the police was all owing to a dispute in the past, when the *kopper* had stood in with him, and he had lost.—*Sporting Times.*

Kori, koro (gypsy), a thorn. Also penis. Hindu *ker*, the *membrum virile.*

Kosh (common), a blow as from a stick or club. From the gypsy *kasht* or *kosh*, a stick. *Vide* COSH.

So the fellow said "Bah!" and Tobias said "Bosh!"
When he felt such a *kosh*
That he went over splosh
All in his Sunday clothes.
—*The New Comic Songster.*

Krop (tailors), back slang for pork.

Kubber (Anglo-Indian), news.

Kudize, to (university), to praise. *Vide* KUDOS.

Kudos (common), a Greek word signifying praise. Originally used by university men, but now in vogue in society with the sense of fame, praise, honour.

Promptly did Gubbins, with hopes of *kudos*, if not of drinks, leap into the arena. —*Sporting Times.*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

In theatrical circles it is said of a manager who produces a piece which is not a pecuniary success, that he has made little coin, but much *kudos*: "Un succès d'estime," as the French term this.

There is some *kudos*, as well as considerable profit, to be got by the manager who first stages a *matinée* properly.—*Bird o' Freedom.*

Kushto, koshto (gypsy), good. Hind.-Persian *kūsh*, pleasant *kūshtipen*, goodness.

Kushto pash *kushto* kerela ferridiro.—*Romani Gudli, or Gypsy Stories.*
I.e., "Good with good makes better."

Kutcha (Anglo-Indian), bad. Properly a house built of mud.

Kye (costermongers), eighteenpence.

END OF VOL. I.

Printed by BALLANTYNE, HANSON & Co.
Edinburgh and London

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

00054502

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Digitized with financial assistance from

NSDL
Technology, Trust & Reach

on 16 November, 2018